

Rates to be pegged by law in curb on big spenders

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

A legal rates ceiling is to be imposed on consistently high-spending councils, the Government announced yesterday in a White Paper clearly aimed at curbing up to twenty Labour city councils. The limit will apply first in April 1985 and if a council tries to levy a rate above the legal maximum, ratepayers will not have to pay. The White Paper also proposes a general power allowing the Government to set a maximum for every council in England and Wales. The move was condemned yesterday by the Conservative Association of County Councils, which said it threatened the very essence of local democracy. It promised a campaign against the Bill which is to be introduced early next year. Sir Jack Smart, leader of the predominantly Labour Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said it was a black day for democracy. White Paper, but it is clear that the Government is aiming to control up to twenty Labour councils, including the Greater London Council, the boroughs of Camden, Lambeth and Southwark, Sheffield, Newcastle and most of the metropolitan counties. Councils in Scotland, which have been a fruitful source of examples for the government, have their rates controlled after they are levied. There is no suggestion in England and Wales that councils would have to repay money to ratepayers, but the Department of the Environment could insist that rates are lowered in future years. But rates could rise significantly next year before the new powers are introduced. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, in a separate announcement yesterday councils their spending targets for 1984-85; councils exceeding the target will suffer rate support grant penalties and may be tempted to push up their rates in consequence. Some Labour councils face a target estimated at 12% per cent below their present outlays and even Mr Jenkin acknowledged: "These targets are undeniably tough". The Government is asking low spending councils to make do with a 3 per cent increase in their cash outlays in the next financial year, and councils say that after allowing for inflation and salary increases that means a 3 1/2 per cent spending cut in real terms. High spending councils are asked to spend 6 per cent less in cash, described by the metropolitan authorities as "wholly unattainable". The White Paper represents the Government's conclusions on the need for rates reform. It says that after widespread consultation, the Government found no consensus on an alternative to rates, although there will be minor reforms to the system. Commercial and industrial property is to be revalued for the first time since 1973 and rating of empty factories will be abolished. Domestic property may also be revalued, though probably not until the end of the decade. Councils will have to consult local business interests before making their rate. On the new rates ceiling, Mr Jenkin said that the Government could no longer ignore "the deep sense of grievance felt by many ratepayers about excessive expenditure and rate levels". Since 16 councils accounted for 75 per cent of the amount by which councils' 1983-84 budgets exceed Government plans, those were the primary targets. But Mr Jenkin warned other councils to pay heed. He had no wish to use the general rates capping powers, but would if necessary. Mr Jenkin is to exclude from consideration for initial rate capping all councils with budgets of less than £10m a year. That means that 275 of the 296 English non-metropolitan councils are excluded and most of those left in are Labour controlled, such as Swindon (Thamesdown). This concession may reduce opposition from the Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils, whose leader, Mr Ian McCallum, yesterday talked of "big brother". "The Government has adjusted its spending plans to be more realistic" about council spending. Provision for current expenditure in 1984-85 is being increased to £20,500m, 3 per cent more than originally planned.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Classics revived: Quinlan Terry, the architect behind a new generation of country houses in the classical style, talks to Spectrum. Women's lives: How pension funds discriminate against women's dependants. Survival drive: Sandy McLachlan reports on the efforts of Dunlop to survive the decline of the UK motor industry. America's Cup: David Miller examines the controversies surrounding the keel of Australia II and the helming of Victory 83. American campaigner: Walter Mondale is now front-runner in the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. But what of the ghosts said to be haunting him?

Gaddafi is accused of Chad raids

The United States has accused Colonel Gaddafi's Libyan regime of open aggression and of using Soviet-built fighters, bombers and helicopter gunships in Chad. Page 6

Dollar soars

The dollar touched record levels against the franc and reached an eight-year high against the Deutschmark. The pound lost 1.25 cents, closing at \$1.5085, but made gains against European currencies. Page 13

Rail rethink

First-class day return tickets have been reintroduced on some railway routes in response to hostility to their cancellation from companies, councils and elderly shoppers. Page 3

Hospital ban

A London hospital has imposed a curfew area and is turning away some patients in an attempt to cut the budget. Page 3

Air fares row

American airlines are accusing the Government of keeping fares artificially high. Back page

Cartoon: If you can assure me there are no riots, revolutions, massacres or epidemics in Birmingham - we'll have two weeks there.

Rothschild deal

RIT and Northern, the financial services group headed by Mr Jacob Rothschild, has taken a 50 per cent stake in L.F. Rothschild, the successful Wall Street investment bank. Page 13

Better outlook

Unsettled weather for at least two days will be followed by temperatures climbing towards 30C (mid-80s F). Back page

Leader page, 11. Letters: On Central America, from Professor F. R. Pole; forensic scientists, from Mr Douglas Eard; MF, slavery, from Mrs G.C. Payton. Leading articles: Central America, Labour leadership. Features: pages 4, 9, 10. Henry Kissinger and Raymond Aron discuss East-West relations; violence in the present; Roger Scruton on the ancient, closed shop; Spectrum: a mole among the hounds; Fashion: an orgy of opulence. Campaign: Hazards, pages 17, 18; Selling in the High Street; developments in the Third World; the search for academic jobs. Obituary, page 12. Sir John Addis, Professor Michael Simpson, Mrs Julie McCallum.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Church, Court, Crossword, Diary. Rows: News, Sports, Arts, Business, Church, Court, Crossword, Diary.



Outward bound: The Duchess of Kent at Heathrow airport with her son, Lord Nicholas Windsor, aged 13, en route for a two-week private stay in Canada. "I'm feeling fine", she said in answer to questions about her health.

Thatcher may face operation on eye

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will learn tomorrow whether she faces an operation on a damaged right eye. The Prime Minister, who was disclosed yesterday, received treatment over the weekend for what Downing Street described as "minor damage" to the retina, the light sensitive coating at the back of the eye in which the optic nerve terminates, had become separated and she had had treatment to reattach it. Mrs Thatcher, who has been advised by her doctors to rest and has cancelled all but the most essential work, will be seen again by her eye surgeon tomorrow, when a decision will be taken on whether further treatment, including laser surgery is necessary. The cause is uncertain but Dr John Henderson, Mrs Thatcher's personal physician, said yesterday that Mrs Thatcher had complained about the problem at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace last Wednesday, when she had rubbed her eye rather vigorously after feeling irritation. Downing Street said last night that Mrs Thatcher thought she had a bit of dust in her eye at that party, although she did not know if that was the reason. Dr Henderson said Mrs Thatcher had seen "unfused" by it all. Surgery would be considered tomorrow if an examination showed that there had been no improvement. If the specialist was not satisfied with progress "the only thing to do is some sort of gluing on process". He said lasers were sometimes used to plaster the retina back into its proper position. Downing Street, which declined to give details of where the treatment had taken place or who had carried it out, said last night: "We hope the treatment has been successful. We have no reason to assume it will not be". Dr Henderson said that Mrs Thatcher was "slightly bored" at having her work interrupted. Although she did not have a heavy work schedule this week, she postponed interviews with magazines. Mrs Thatcher's vision was not impaired, Downing Street said, and she was not wearing an eye-patch or dark glasses, or in discomfort. Our Medical Correspondent writes: It would appear that Mrs Thatcher probably has a small tear in her retina. As a person ages the vitreous jelly inside the eye contracts. If this jelly is firmly attached to the retina retraction can cause tearing and the jelly can then seep into the sub-retinal space and cause detachment.

Britons tell of holiday terror in Sri Lanka

Four operators have set up contingency plans to evacuate British tourists from Sri Lanka if racial violence gets worse.

Plans for the rescue were revealed as 41 Britons flew into Heathrow from Colombo. The holidaymakers, who all booked with Knott, said they were relieved to be home and spoke about the violence that has engulfed the island. They were staying at the Ramwell holiday centre, five miles outside Negombo. Mr John Hinchinson, from Leicester, said: "Last Wednesday a taxi driver took us both into Negombo just before curfew and the whole town was smouldering. All the Tamil property in the centre of the town had been burnt down. The cigarette factory had gone up together with a cinema and a garage. There was smoke everywhere and the whole area was a burnt-out mess. "The houses of rich Tamils had been burnt to the ground and there was no sign of any Tamils anywhere. We were told that Tamils were being grabbed off buses by groups of people wielding iron bars. "We also saw young Sinhalese stopping cars to siphon out the petrol so they could use it to start fires. "Mr Pat O'Leary, from Killarney, who has been working for five weeks in Colombo for the Port Authority, said: "I saw a lot of buildings being burnt. People were being dragged out of their houses and then the houses burnt down. "I watched a group of Sinhalese people chasing a

Sultan dismisses Crown Agents

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Sultan of Brunei, one of the world's richest men, has dismissed Britain's Crown Agents from their long-standing role as manager of Brunei's multi-billion pound investment portfolio. The Crown Agents were abruptly informed last week that the Sultan has decided to establish an independent Brunei Investment Agency before the end of the year to manage the bulk of his country's accumulated oil and gas wealth. The move comes just five months before Brunei is scheduled to achieve full independence from Britain, although a Foreign Office spokesman denied last night that it was linked to the continuing dispute between Britain and the Sultan over future defence arrangements for the sultanate. It seems likely however to have serious financial consequences for the Crown Agents, the controversial Government agency which hit the headlines in the 1970s when it lost £180m through dubious property investments. Reports that the Sultan is being advised by two American banks on how to set up the investment agency suggest that the move may adversely affect other British financial institutions which have helped manage the lucrative Brunei investment portfolio. No detailed figures about the size of Brunei's financial reserves have been released officially, but the Crown Agents are understood to have been responsible for more than £3,000m of funds. This amounts to approximately half the sultanate's total financial reserves, which have grown dramatically as a result of the oil and gas price rises of the 1970s. The Brunei funds are estimated to account for some 70 per cent of the £4,600m which the Crown Agents are responsible for managing. Mr Alan Flood, the Crown Agent's managing director, confirmed last night that they had been informed of the Sultan's plans. He would not comment on the financial or employment impact of the changeover, but he said "potentially it is a very serious matter".

12 injured in North Sea oil rig explosion

By Jonathan Davis

At least 12 people were injured last night when an explosion started a fire on a production platform in the Forties field, the second largest oil field in the North Sea. The injured rig workers were airlifted from the Forties Delta platform to another production platform in the field, and six were then flown to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. British Petroleum, the operator of the field, said that the fire was still burning after the explosion. The families of those injured were being informed, a spokesman said. The fire started at 5.15pm. It is believed to have been caused by a gas blowout during production drilling. The Forties field has four production platforms, each accommodating more than 150 people. BP said the fire was still burning late in the evening but had been brought under control. At the time of the blast there were 141 workers on the platform. Six of the injured were taken to the medical unit of a nearby production platform. A BP official said: "We must call this a serious accident. It has not happened on the Forties or on any of our platforms before. It is impossible to say how long the platform will be out of production. "Fortunately the accident will not affect output from the other three platforms in the field. "Delta, like the other three platforms in the field, all owned by BP, is a production platform, permanently anchored to the site and is not an exploration platform. It is the first serious accident on the field since production started in September 1975.

Shore urges stronger conventional forces

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Peter Shore last night included a call to strengthen Britain's conventional forces in a proposed major revision of what he called the Labour Party's "nationally based" non-nuclear defence policy. He made a robust and long statement of his position on defence and disarmament, taking him further away from the party stance than any of the other Labour leadership candidates. He said Labour's pledge to remove not just cruise but all American bases, its unconditional abandonment of Polaris and the commitment to reduce conventional armaments there will be unacceptable and it would not be acceptable when the party faced the electorate again. Attacking the "despairing and negative unilateralism" of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Mr Shore said armed forces and weapons existed to defend Britain's independence. "I have considerable confidence in our alliance (Nato) but I am not prepared now or in the uncertain future to place our fortunes or our independence in the hands of another power," he said. Recalling the battle in the late 1950s of Aneurin Bevan with the left over unilateralism, Mr Shore said that if elected leader he would not send his Foreign Secretary "naked into a conference chamber". Mr Shore, speaking in Lambeth, London, said Labour could not indulge in the false confidence that Britain was immune from Soviet encroachment. The Russians sought influence, power and acquiescence and increasingly they did so from a position of strength, he said. Mr Shore distinguished between positive and negative unilateralism. Positive and creative unilateralism was the willingness to give a lead, to refuse to increase existing nuclear arsenals in the hope that others would follow. But this would not mean abandoning existing nuclear weapons, including Polaris. Further policy developments would depend on "the response to our initial moves". Negative unilateralism sought to strip Britain unconditionally of all nuclear weapons. It was the unilateralism of a neutralist and powerless Britain. Mr Neil Kinnock, the leadership front-runner said in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, last night that Labour would ensure that savings in pension funds were channelled into rebuilding industry and the public services, and that would mean taking control of the City and stopping the flow of capital overseas. Mr Michael Meacher, a candidate for the deputy leadership, said yesterday he was confident he could break the Kinnock-Hattersley "dream ticket" for the leadership and deputy leadership. Meacher profile, page 2. Leading article, page 11.

New language of conciliation in White House

US more hopeful of Latin American peace

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration is growing increasingly optimistic about events in Central America. It believes that its allies in the region - Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala - hold the key to early peace talks with left-wing forces. Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, echoed the new language of conciliation being used by senior Administration officials when he asserted that there were "some encouraging signs" of a possible diplomatic solution. "We are not sending US troops into combat in Central America," he said. "We are not trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government." The Administration is making strenuous efforts to distract attention from its show of military strength in Central America. This month 19 warships, 13,500 naval officers and men, 4,000 military personnel and a substantial array of military hardware will start arriving in the region for "exercises". The build-up is causing some alarm in the higher levels of the Republican Party. Yesterday

Boy among 16 victims of typhoid

By a Staff Reporter

Fifteen Britons, including a boy aged three, are now known to have typhoid after returning from a holiday in Greece, but the total number of victims could be 22. It has also been confirmed that one man has picked up the disease after a holiday in Portugal. The boy, Simon Booth, of Leeds, is the latest confirmed victim among those who stayed at the Ramira Beach Hotel on Kos. His condition was described as improving at Seacroft Hospital, Leeds. A woman from the Guiseley area of Leeds is also at the hospital with the disease. Of the other confirmed cases, a young man, a woman and a middle-aged man come from Greater Manchester, three people are from Kent, two from Hertfordshire, two from Nottingham, and one each from Birmingham, south London and Newport in Gwent. The cases have all been confirmed by doctors, but the Department of Health is awaiting the results of tests. Dr Richard Fairhurst, who flew to Kos to investigate the outbreak on behalf of seven tour companies, was no nearer finding the cause yesterday. He emphasized the importance of taking a course of inoculations before visiting the island. Meanwhile it emerged that another party of British tourists had suffered stomach cramps and diarrhoea in Samarkand, on top of the 29 people in the same party as Dr Lawrence Reece, who died on Saturday. Out of the 27 people from the second party, at least 10 are believed to be still ill, and the Department of Health confirmed that three from Dr Reece's party are still unwell.

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Main London stations seen as candidates for railways sell-off

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

The Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Tom King, has told rail unions that he envisages large-scale private investment in British Rail in the next few years.

Candidates for privatization include parts of London's main railway termini: Liverpool Street, Broad Street, Fenchurch Street, Victoria, Waterloo, and Kings Cross, where comprehensive redevelopment, including shopping centres and luxury restaurants, is expected. Catering services and the Sealink shipping subsidiary are also in line for the same treatment.

While Mr King declined to comment on specific services, such as Victoria to Warwick, he is in favour of introducing private capital into the railway operation where feasible. He emphasized in his confidential discussion with the unions last week that in such cases there would be no "rip-off" of public assets. Investors would be required to pay for full market

price for any rail asset, providing funds to plough back into those parts remaining with British Rail.

Mr King told the unions that the Government has no master plan for the future of the railway and is not committed to any particular size of rail network.

He has not yet reached any decision on electrification of the East Coast main line from London to York, Newcastle and Edinburgh. While he was "not unsympathetic" to electrification, the investment needed would have to be justified by the financial results of the business concerned, in this case Inter-City.

British Rail's last plan for Inter-City was rejected in the spring because it failed to meet Government's demand for a 5 per cent return. A revised plan is due in the autumn. It will be based on British Rail's new corporate plan which foresees a profitable Inter-City business, and a reduction in the Government's subsidy from about £300m to £700m over the next five years.

That would be achieved by shedding 7,000 more staff than the 13,000 already proposed and by further rationalization.

Mr King in effect repudiated the "balance sheet of change" agreed between the rail unions and the Management when Mr Norman Fowler was Secretary of State for Transport, in which tranches of investment in the railways were held out as the reward for union agreement to productivity measures such as flexible rostering, one-man operated trains and abolition of marshalling yards.

He made clear that the only guarantee of future rail performance was adequate performance by the railways in the market place, by winning passengers and freight and, except for specifically subsidized services such as South-east computer routes making a satisfactory financial return.



Royal helmman: Prince Edward with Mr John Terry in Spanish Lady taking part in the National Flying Fifteen class at Cowes yesterday. They came ninth in the race. The Duke of Edinburgh came twelfth.

UDR accused by O'Flaich of murdering youth

By Richard Ford

The killing of an unarmed Roman Catholic youth by a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) was questioned on a Roman Catholic housing estate.

Speaking at Mr Malone's funeral in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, the Cardinal added that the Pope had said in the diocese four years ago that he prayed nobody would ever call murder by any other name but murder. Cardinal O'Flaich was critical that he and others were still "completely in the dark" six months after calling for full inquiries into the deaths of three other unarmed people. About 1,400 mourners heard a statement from five priests saying that they had no confidence in any investigation by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

The statement asked why the UDR patrol left the scene immediately after the killing, and why it took four hours for the RUC to appear.

A squad of detectives set up to investigate the killing has questioned the patrol, but no one has been suspended from duty or charged.

Village mourns pop fans who drowned

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The hamlet of Ballymurry, Co. Carlow, was in mourning yesterday for four pop fans who drowned with four others in treacherous seas off the Irish Republic's west coast.

More than 100 miles away an air and sea search continued at Doolin, Co. Clare, for the bodies. One was recovered as the Irish naval protection vessel, Emer, with fishing boats searching the waters below the cliffs.

Two Air Corps helicopters and submersible teams from Cork, Limerick and Galway also took part, while 60 villagers searched the shoreline.

The eight drowned as the sixth annual Lisdoonvarna pop festival, which had attracted 20,000 fans to see Rory Gallagher and Belfast-born Van Morrison, ended on Sunday. The dead include three brothers and their friend from Ballymurry.

Mr James Dornan, aged 25, his brother John, 22, and Edward, 19, together with a neighbour, James Murphy, aged 17, had been in the water only a few minutes when their cries were heard from behind high waves.

Their younger brother, Christopher, was rescued. A friend, Mr Seamus Kelly, 21, said: "It was all over in a minute."

The size of the waves made it difficult for people on the shore to see where a voice shout 'help' was coming from. Gerard Lister, aged 16 from Dublin, said in hospital: "There were a lot of people diving into the waves. I saw three fellows shouting 'help, help', but I thought they were messing. I saw a lot of people standing on the rocks looking out to sea, and with the waves very high, I couldn't see where others were swimming."

"I heard a voice shout 'help', and went to see what happened when the ground disappeared from under me and I was sucked away."

Several of the victims are thought to have swum to sandbanks, but when they tried to return they could not beat the current which was particularly strong as the tide had just turned. The beach from which they swam has three signs warning people not to bathe because of dangerous currents.

The brothers who drowned are cousins of a local Fianna Fail member of the Dail. In a village nearby signs announced the cancellation of last night's bingo and a discotheque.

The four other victims were Mr Colm Keyes and Mr Michael Murphy, from Portlaoise; Mr John Leahy, from Co. Limerick; and Mr Dennis O'Sullivan from Co. Kerry.

Threat of college closure

By Our Education Correspondent

A nautical college in Fleetwood, Lancashire, may have to close if the Government accepts big cuts in maritime training proposed because of the decline in the British merchant fleet.

The Fleetwood College, which is likely to have 140 students in 1984-85, should not be allowed to take any further students for advanced courses, according to the National Advisory Body for local authority higher education.

The advisory body, whose committee met yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Brooke, Under Secretary of State for higher education, also proposed that advanced nautical training excluding radio courses, be stopped at Brunel Technical College in Bristol, the City of London and Merchant Navy College, Hammerside College of higher education and Lowestoft College of further education.

Theatre to present five new plays

By Christopher Warnas Arts Correspondent

The National Youth Theatre yesterday announced its 1983 season of five productions in London with its director, Michael Croft, in hospital, and its future uncertain as it has to leave its headquarters at the Shaw Theatre in November.

Mr Croft, who is suffering from angina, is being kept in hospital this week, but it is hoped that the season will open on August 17 with *For Those in Peril*, a new play by Christopher Short about the Invergordon mutiny.

Other plays in the season, which runs to September 24, are *I Get Along Without You*, a new play about the Second World War, by Bill Butler; *Hamlet*; *Charlotte Emily and Anne*, a new play about the Brontë sisters by Douglas Terrall; and *Royal Hunt of the Sun*.

Doubts on AUEW's TUC seat claim

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Confidential membership figures produced for leaders of the engineering workers' union suggests that the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) is claiming a seat on the TUC General Council to which it is not entitled.

The AUEW engineering workers' section, dominated by moderates, has been affiliated to the TUC on a membership of 1,001,000, which takes it over the one-million threshold sanctioning four automatic seats on the labour movement's ruling body. But an internal survey of the union's 2,407 branches carried out two months ago discloses that total audited membership had already fallen to 944,055 by December 31, 1982, the qualifying date for TUC purposes.

TUC officials are expected to investigate the apparent discrepancy which, if made known by the May 31 closing date for the supply of union statistics,

Training scheme under fire

By Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

The Government's £1,000m Youth Training Scheme (YTS) will be the subject of bitter criticism at this year's TUC conference.

One motion likely to gain substantial support calls for the TUC to reconsider its involvement in the scheme.

The motion, from the National Graphical Association, declares that the scheme is "totally inadequate" to alleviate the drastic plight of the young unemployed.

It states: "Congress recognizes that the Government is using these schemes, not only as a means of cynically manipulating unemployment figures, but also to break the link between the pay of apprentices and trainees and that of skilled workers."

The National Union of Teachers will also present a motion expressing "deep concern" over alleged exploitation of the scheme by employers.

The union says that the guidelines laid down by the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), the body administering the scheme, are in many cases being flouted.

The National Union of Teachers is concerned that arrangements for monitoring and evaluating courses are "wholly inadequate", that the schemes are being submitted without evidence that union approval had been sought and that the quality of training available in some schemes is low.

The NGA's action is likely to win support of two of Britain's most powerful white-collar unions, the National Association of Local Government Officers and the Civil and Public Services Association, both of whom have declared their opposition.

Colleges blamed for unpaid foreign fees

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Stung by allegations that Nigerian students owe up to £3m in college fees, the Nigerian High Commission yesterday accused British colleges of failing to provide information to enable the money to be paid.

Mr Ezekiel Dimka, the acting High Commissioner, refuted the allegations and ended by saying: "We would like to appeal to all illegal institutions operating in Britain which depend solely on fees from Nigerians to exist to stop continuing with unscrupulous Nigerians to subvert the Nigerian foreign exchange regulations."

The institutions referred to are some private colleges which cater for Nigerian students. However, the registration system for private institutions operated by the Department of Education and Science was ended in 1980.

Mr Dimka said that it was up to universities, polytechnics and colleges to give the High Commission personal details (names, courses and sponsors), of Nigerian students in order to have foreign exchange released by the central bank. The London School of Economics, Reading Southampton and Sussex universities; King's College, London; and Preston, Hatfield and Oxford polytechnics, and the Polytechnic of North London have refused to do this.

The reasons given were that the information was confidential or that there was not the administrative resources.

Aston University said last week it was owed about £100,000 by Nigerian state governments, and its registrar, Mr Keith Houghton, said that with 5,000 Nigerian students studying in Britain as much as £3m in fees could be owing.

Nigerian officials said yesterday that the figure was a gross exaggeration, but they did not know how much was owed. They denied that the debts were connected with restrictions on foreign exchange for Nigerians studying abroad.

A survey by the United Kingdom Overseas Students Association this year, which received replies from 90 institutions, found that £1.5m was owed by Nigerian students.

As a result, some students at Aston are having their degree results withheld. West Bromwich College of Commerce and Technology has expelled Nigerian students.

Journalism gets first professor

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr John Dodge, director of information at the Inner London Education Authority, has been appointed to run the journalism course at the City University in London. He will be the first professor of journalism in Britain.

Mr Dodge, aged 53, who was director of the National Council for the Training of Journalists for eight years, hopes to turn the City University into a centre for refresher courses for journalists in mid-career. He said that it would also be useful for editors to be able to meet to discuss their work.

"When you think how much training the ILEA puts on for teachers and the number of teachers' centres it had, you realize there is something like it in journalism," he said yesterday.

Mr Dodge, who will start his new job later this year, was responsible for establishing the Communications, Advertising and Marketing Education Foundation, which he also ran for three years.

The City University course in journalism, one of two university postgraduate courses in Britain, has been running for seven years. It takes about 25 home and 25 overseas students each year. The course includes periodical and radio journalism, and virtually all students have secured jobs.

Mr Dodge, who has been in his present job since 1972, said that he hoped journalists on sabbatical leave would come to the City University to write books or teach.

Welsh self-respect in peril, says ombudsman

From Tim Jones, Llangefni

Extremists who burn holiday homes and destroy in the name of Wales could damage the nation's self respect Mr Alun Jones, the Welsh ombudsman, said yesterday at the National Eisteddfod at Llangefni, Gwynedd.

He added: "There is no place for hatred and violence in our efforts to extol our Welshness and promote the cause of the language."

"We see more and more these days actions and behaviour on the part of a small number of us, that are completely inconsistent with civilized standards. If these tendencies increase the result will be that we will lose our self respect, not to mention the respect of those non-Welsh speakers whom we should be attracting towards our society."

As he spoke, two members of the Welsh Language Society began a week-long fast as part of a campaign for an official body to supervise teaching of the Welsh language.

The organizers feel their protests detract from the true nature of the eisteddfod.

The eisteddfod has a strict no-English rule and for that reason some local authorities in the Principality refuse to make a financial contribution towards it. But the rule is immovable for the eisteddfod is the only big event in Wales held entirely in the mother tongue.

This year's eisteddfod will cost £250,000, and despite a government grant of £180,000 in this financial year, fund-raising remains a problem.

Michelin strikers told to work or lose jobs

By Our Labour Reporter

More than 1,100 strikers at a French-owned tyre factory in Stoke-on-Trent were told yesterday to work or be dismissed. The production workers at the Michelin plant, who are protesting at the imposition of a seven-day shift system, are to hold a meeting today.

Mr John Miller, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, (TGWU) will ask the men if they want to continue the month-long stoppage in the face of the company's threat.

Union officials last night thought the employer's action could enflame the situation. A letter sent by Michelin to the workers' homes said: "Each employee has been notified of his restart shift time. If anyone on strike does not return this will be taken as an indication that he does not want to continue his employment. In such a case the company will have no alternative but to terminate the employee's contract."

● Talks to resolve a dispute involving 230 plumbers at British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard in the Clyde ended without result last night (Our Glasgow Correspondent writes).

The dispute is over a call for 34 redundancies in spite of the fact that the yard is using outside contractors. The plumbers will renew strike action if there is no satisfactory resolution.

Press Council break urged

The National Union of Journalists is calling on the TUC to sever all links with the Press Council and to seek instead a "genuinely independent" media authority able to implement a statutory right of reply for aggrieved members of the public. (Our Labour Editor writes).

In a strongly-worded motion to the conference, the union argues that a four-year campaign by the TUC General Council has failed to achieve fundamental changes in the Press Council.

The union argues that "the continued existence of the Press Council is hindering the development of a free and democratically-accountable press"

What the papers say about the Fiat Uno.

☞ The interior is luxuriously finished and the outside lines have been softened to make it different from the current crop of lookalike hatchbacks. ☞ SUNDAY MIRROR

☞ The results from the rigorously controlled annual Mobil-Fiat Economy Run are frankly staggering. My own figure was 75.27 mpg at an average speed of 44.77 mph. ☞ GUARDIAN

☞ The Uno's steering also drew favourable comments from all our testers who praised its ability to afford good feel when being hurried along twisty lanes and at high motorway speeds, while remaining light and responsive throughout the entire speed range. ☞ AUTOCAR

The unique combination. From £3,300

MODEL ILLUSTRATED UNO 1.1 53000. ALL PRICES ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND INCLUDE 1 YEAR'S MOTORTAX MEMBERSHIP OF THE RAC BUT EXCLUDE DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES

Meacher: Toiler with a social conscience

By John Winder

Mr Michael Meacher, whose campaign to win the deputy leadership of the Labour Party has been gaining momentum in the past few days, has won an enviable reputation for integrity among his fellow MPs.

Outside the Commons in the maelstrom of activity on the fringe of Parliament, Mr Meacher has become known as one who is ready to take on even the most menial tasks and always carry out his undertakings, a reputation he shares with few other MPs.

Michael Hugh Meacher was born in Hertfordshire 43 years ago, the son of a farm worker. He won a scholarship which gave him a public school education at Berkhamsted, and another which took him to New College, Oxford.

Contrary to popular belief, it was not his childhood and education that gave him the guilt feeling which led him into the Labour Party, but what he saw after university in inner London slums.

Mr Meacher's childhood was spent in a house with outside lavatory and bath in the



Mr Michael Meacher: Concern for gut issues.

kitchen, not the kind of background that leads to social guilt.

His initial intention was to become a probation officer, and while training for that he discovered the appalling conditions in which some people were living in the capital.

He decided that while social work had a role, the problems of the slums needed to be tackled more fundamentally, and he joined the Labour Party in 1962.

He entered Parliament eight years later, having pursued an academic career in the interim. His early speeches in the Commons concentrated on social matters, but he has since widely broadened his oratorical horizons. He can be relied on to take part in the annual economic debate after the Queen's Speech and often speaks on defence; he made two contributions during the Falklands debates.

Nevertheless, it is the issue of the class divide and low pay that he wants to bring to the fore through the deputy leadership election. He feels Labour should present the electorate with the gut issues of inequality of wealth and income: the very issues which brought him into the party, and which he feels have been insufficiently emphasized in recent years.

Mr Meacher is keenly interested in sport, was a jogger before it was fashionable, and plays golf with a son who has a handicap of three. Mr Meacher will not disclose his own rating. He met his wife, Molly, on the tennis court when they were teenagers.

His other main recreation is music of all kinds, particularly classical and operatic.

Mr Meacher's supporters believe that he will win the deputy leadership in October, but more neutral observers would still give odds against him.

With his five years' ministerial experience in three different departments, his undoubted abilities as a speaker, and his commitment to present Labour policy, Mr Meacher makes his strongest appeal to the individual member of the Labour Party. He hopes to gain a high percentage of constituency votes and to win a respectable measure of support from his fellow MPs.

Mr Meacher's backers hope that he will win the support of all the unions which backed Mr Wedgwood Benn in 1981, plus a few more.

If the party chooses him, he can be expected to make hard-hitting Commons speeches, attacking the Prime Minister for dividing the nation and for "inequality, even in misery", which he sees as the hallmark of Thatcherite Britain.

Leading article, page 11.

Murder attempt charges

Two men suffered serious wounds, one to the head, the other in the pelvis, after shots were fired through a window in the Balsall Heath area of Birmingham yesterday. Police had previously had complaints about a party which had gone on, nonetheless for two nights.

A man aged 53 will appear before Birmingham magistrates today on two charges of attempted murder.

Sixth victim identified

Graham Allan, aged 28, from Newarthill, Lanarkshire, has been identified by the police as the sixth of the 15 people whose remains were found at Cranley Gardens, Muswell Hill, and Melrose Avenue, Cricklewood, north London, earlier this year. He was identified by his dentures.

Correction

The table of trade union voting intentions, yesterday should have shown the engineering section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers as supporting Mr Roy Hattersley as leader of the Labour Party, with Mr Neil Kinnock as his deputy.

9% pay increase for doctors in the forces

By Our Defence Correspondent

Doctors and dentists in the armed forces are to receive a 6.6 per cent pay increase backdated to April, and a further 2.5 per cent from January.

These increases, recommended in a supplementary report of the Review Body on Armed Forces, were accepted by the Prime Minister in a written Commons answer on Friday.

The rises will take the maximum pay of a captain to £15,544, and that of a colonel to £25,785.

"Review Body on Armed Forces Pay: Service Medical and Dental Officers. Supplement to Twelfth Report, 1983. HMSO, £3.

● Presboard, of Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, is to supply the Army with more than 250,000 air conditions in most roles to combat athlete's foot. (The Press Association reports).

The sole has been designed to fit the new Mondopoint boot.

Overseas selling prices

1983 Fiat Uno 1.1	£3,300
1983 Fiat Uno 1.3	£3,500
1983 Fiat Uno 1.6	£3,700
1983 Fiat Uno 1.8	£3,900
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0	£4,100
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£4,300
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£4,500
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£4,700
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£4,900
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£5,100
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£5,300
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£5,500
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1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£5,900
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£6,100
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£6,300
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£6,500
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£6,700
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£6,900
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£7,100
1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£7,300
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1983 Fiat Uno 2.0i	£10,100
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Doctors angry as cuts force hospital to turn away patients

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

A London hospital is turning away patients living outside its own self-imposed "catchment area" in an effort to meet a cut of £350,000 in its budget this year. Unless they need urgent treatment, patients sent to Whipps Cross Hospital, east London, are being told to go back to their general practitioners for help.

The move is being opposed strongly by local general practitioners, the hospital medical staff and the British Medical Association, which sees it as tending to fragment the National Health Service geographically.

The hospital has written to local general practitioners, enclosing maps, telling them that only patients living in the Whipps Cross and western Redbridge areas will be treated in future.

Patients from eastern Redbridge, southern Essex, Epping Forest and north-Newham will no longer be seen, unless they need urgent treatment or have been referred to named consultants.

Whipps Cross is one of several hospitals in the East End of London which have been traditionally used as the first point of help by people needing medical treatment. Now these casual callers will be treated on the same basis as those referred by their own General Practitioners, that is, those living outside the new catchment area will generally be turned away.

Even patients needing emergency treatment are to be referred back to their own General Practitioners after initial treatment, unless the hour at which they arrive at the hospital makes it unreasonable to expect GPs to make alternative arrangements with other hospitals.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the British Medical Association GPs' committee, said yesterday that if other hospitals adopted the same tactic the National Health Service was in danger of being turned into a district one.

"This is not far off the passport problem. It is entirely contrary to the ethics of the medical profession and the health service that there should be constraints on consultants treating patients", he said.

Dr Israel Glick, chairman of the medical staff committee at the hospital, said yesterday that the catchment area idea had been adopted as the least

damaging way of reducing patient services. Unless the hospital had come up with such an idea, the Waltham Forest Health Authority would have imposed a freeze on all staff posts, which would have been far more disruptive than "a calculated, planned reduction".

The catchment area system is expected to reduce the number of patients treated at the hospital by 3 per cent and to produce a saving of £200,000, mainly by reducing the number of in-patients. That will save on the drugs and catering bills, and a ward has been closed.

The hospital has saved about £150,000 already through efficiency savings, including five compulsory redundancies, reductions in cleaning, catering and portering staff, and the closure of the night inquiry service.

The number of patients at the hospital has gone up by 5 per cent in each of the past five years, and it was facing overspending of £250,000 this year. The extra £100,000 was required as the hospital's share of the Government's efficiency saving targets.

Nell Gwynne seeks parity with court jesters

Nell Gwynne took a London restaurant to an industrial tribunal yesterday, to prove she was worth as much as a pair of court jesters.

Miss Gaynor Miles, aged 28, who played the seventeenth century orange girl in a tableaux at the Beehive in the Tower restaurant, is claiming parity with the two male performers under the Equal Pay Act, 1970.

Miss Miles, who worked at the restaurant from 1979 until last year, said that when she started she was earning £60 a week compared with the men's £90.

But Mr Allen Dyer, for the Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse (London), said that while her former employer admitted Miss Miles was paid less, they claimed she was doing different work.

Miss Miles, of Shepherd's Hill, Highgate, north London, said her role was to play a lady of the court.

Mr Fraser Nimmo, stage manager at the Beehive, said he found it easy to cover if there was no girl singer, but less so if one of the jesters was absent.

"We have about forty serving wenches, many of whom are very pretty. The men stand out much more than the women because there are so many females in the building."

The hearing continues today.



Home is their hero: A group of Vietnamese boat people yesterday thanked an officer of a British ship that saved them from death.

Midnight rush for 'A' cars

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Dealers throughout Britain reported last night that they had been hard pressed to handle an unprecedented demand by motorists who wanted to be the first in their street with a car sporting the A registration plate.

Some opened showrooms as early as midnight on Sunday with sales staff gathering outside to cheer as the first of the expected 350,000 August registered cars drove out. Temporary staff have been taken on at local licensing offices to handle the huge influx of registrations.

Mr Donald Corps, acting managing director of the Hemy group, one of the largest BL distributors in Britain, said:

"Early reports indicate a quite unprecedented demand."

Mr John Tustain, of BSG, the Birmingham-based group handling Ford, Vauxhall, VW-Audi, Fiat, Citroen and Talbot, said: "The good news is that August sales are 30 per cent up on the same time last year."

When the doors of BSG's biggest outlet closed in Birmingham city centre last night it had delivered 200 A registration cars.

Mr John Leek, of the All Electric Garage group, which sells BL, Volvo and Daihatsu cars, said: "For the last week we have been working till 7.30pm and by careful planning we shall cope with double the number of cars we sold last August."

Early indications suggest that the stocks of used cars expected to pile up in part-exchange deals may not be so high. The ordinary motorist appears to have disposed of his car privately to take advantage of prices quoted for car sales not involving part exchange.

● Sales of Leyland trucks outside the United Kingdom and Europe fell by more than 50 per cent in the first six months of 1983 compared with the same period last year, the company said yesterday (the Press Association reports).



Miss Gaynor Miles: Pay battle.

First-class rail revolt spreads

By Richard Evans

Angry rail commuters have been joined by companies, local authorities and elderly shoppers in boycotting British Rail after its decision to scrap first-class day return tickets.

As increasing evidence of customer hostility continued to emerge, British Rail seemed last night to be confused about whether the tickets were available.

To London and back from:	WHAT THE TICKETS COST		
	1st class cheap day return now scrapped	Ordinary 1st class return	2nd class return
Brighton	6.80	16.00	5.80
Bristol	10.00	18.00	6.80
Tunbridge Wells	5.80	10.40	3.80
Bath	22.00	32.00	12.00
Colchester	6.80	16.00	5.80

A British Rail board official insisted no first-class day return tickets have been available since they were officially stopped in May. But a spokesman for Western Region said it had revived the special fare from Oxford, Didcot, Newbury and Reading to London just four days after it was halted.

"We had an established flow of first-class day return traffic and revenue could have been lost."

The first-class day return, available to travellers starting out after the morning rush hour, was dropped in the hope that the 700,000 passengers buying them each year would turn to the ordinary first-class ticket, costing up to twice as much.

But many rail users have rebelled and opted for second-class travel or, even worse for British Rail, have resorted to travelling by car.

The managing director of a Banbury firm wrote to British Rail saying: "I have given instructions that all staff will now travel by second class." He said the firm could not justify spending £21 for a first-class return between Banbury and London. Staff at a subsidiary of British Sugar, based in Peterborough, are now driving to London, rather than pay the extra cost.

Mr Leonard Duncow, secretary of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, the rail user watchdog committee, said local government and National Health Service instructed to travel second class or by car.

Elderly people who used to travel to London once or twice a month for shopping had written to complain. "They cannot afford the full first-class fare and have a problem getting a seat in the crowded second-class accommodation. So now they don't go to London at all", he said.

"BR had hoped that even if half of the returning passengers paid the extra cash they would be all right. But from all the evidence we are receiving this is not happening."

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF INDEX-LINKED CERTIFICATES AND S.A.Y.E.

NEW SUPPLEMENT

2.4%

FOR 1983-1984

A new supplement of 2.4% p.a. on top of index linking has been announced for index-linked National Savings held in 1983-84. This is in addition to the 2.4% supplement for 1982-83 and follows the same pattern.

National Savings Certificates

The new supplement will be earned if Index-linked Certificates are held for the whole year until 1 November 1984. It will be calculated on the index-linked value at 31 October 1983. This value includes the current supplement accruing on 1 November 1983.

Index-linked SAYE

The 2.4% supplement payable for 1983-84 can be earned on similar terms to the supplement accruing on 1 December 1983 for the year 1982-83. Holders will be sent details individually.

No supplements are earned if you cash in early.



Sandra Ogborne (left) after hospital treatment, with her sister, Anna, aged six.

Giraffe tramples on child

A girl aged four was treated in hospital for head injuries yesterday after being struck at Longhat Safari Park, Wiltshire, by a giraffe which had given birth six days earlier.

Sarah Ogborne, of Henbury, Bristol, and her family had left their car to walk in an area where giraffes and camels roam free.

They had been told not to go too close to the giraffe because of her protective feelings towards her offspring, the park's manager, Mr Roger Cawley, said.

He added: "They got rather too close and were given a second warning, but by this time it was too late - the giraffe had started towards them. The woman managed to get out of the way but the child didn't."

The child's aunt, Mrs Anita Goodland, said: "As we stood looking, it just started to run to us. I think it was because we were all wearing yellow coats. The giraffe kicked Sarah to the ground and then started to trample on her." She said some other visitors there drove close to the giraffe and sounded car horns, and a woman dragged the child clear.

Sarah's mother, Mrs June Ogborne, said she was considering legal action. "The giraffe should have been penned in," she said.

Women in search of 'manly' men

Women are against men wearing earrings and make-up, according to a survey published in *Woman* magazine yesterday.

Seventy-three per cent of those surveyed disliked men wearing a single earring and 92 per cent objected to them wearing a pair.

Only 3 per cent thought lipstick on a man was acceptable, although most did not mind men perming or highlighting their hair.

A typical response was "I like a man to look like a man".

Kindness and humour were the favourite attributes and only 1 per cent saw dominance as a man's most important characteristic. Most felt men should feel free to weep in private.

Siege councillors treble insurance

Members of Carradon District Council in Liskeard, East Cornwall, have increased their personal accident insurance from £15,000 to £75,000 for cases of death or permanent disablement.

The move comes after a gun siege in the council chamber a month ago. A man has been charged with having a shotgun with intent to endanger life.

Rare plants lost

Workers from the Exmoor National Park Authority clearing a pathway have been blamed for destroying two rare Deptford pink dianthus flowers, which had not been seen on the moor for 23 years. The plants had just been discovered by the Exmoor Natural History Society.

Work halted by Henry VIII starts again

A project stopped by Henry VIII during the dissolution of the monasteries was under way again yesterday.

Craftsmen started work on the roofless west tower of the Priory Church, Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire.

The cost will be £75,000 and the work is part of a wider restoration programme.

The west tower was started in 1520 and was intended to rise to 120ft. It had reached only a third of that height when work was stopped. It had remained unfinished ever since.

Mr Leonard Grouner, chairman of the appeal committee, said the fund was only £20,000 short of the overall £300,000 target needed.

Minehunter's captain to blame for collision

The captain of a Royal Navy minehunter was dismissed from his ship by a court martial in Portsmouth yesterday after pleading guilty to negligence after a collision.

Lieutenant-Commander Andrew Lawrence, aged 34, admitted allowing HMS Brocklesby, which cost £25m and was only commissioned in January this year, to be endangered.

The Brocklesby, at 685 tons the largest glass fibre ship in the world, collided with HMS Nereus, another minehunter, in thick fog outside Portland Harbour, off the Dorset coast, last February.

The Nereus, 360 tons, was badly holed when HMS Brocklesby's bow hit her at right angles. Most of the Nereus's 38 crewmen were transferred but there were no casualties.

Lieutenant Peter Beaumont, aged 38, HMS Brocklesby's first lieutenant, was severely reprimanded. He pleaded guilty to negligence causing the ship to be put into danger.

Both men admitted particular negligence in failing to realize there was a risk of collision and taking appropriate action.

Lieutenant-Commander David Lancaster, defending the Brocklesby's captain, said: "There was an error of judgment which should not damn a fine record for all time".

Lieutenant Beaumont was described as a "thoughtful, competent and capable officer".

White Paper spells out powers to tame high-spending councils

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

The Government admitted yesterday that despite lengthy efforts to find a new way of funding local government the rates are here to stay. But the ratepayers of high-spending councils can expect protection in future.

The nub of a White Paper published jointly by the Department of the Environment and the Welsh Office is that the Government wants power to set the rates of the small number of councils - between a dozen and 20 - which it says are responsible for most of the "excessive" spending.

"The Government will seek powers to limit the rate levels of those whose high spending imposes an excessive burden of rates on householders and business", the White Paper says.

And if, by mid-1985, total council spending is still too high and other councils besides the high-spenders are increasing their rates, then the Government plans to introduce a cap on the rates of all councils. The White Paper talks of reserve powers.

"The future course of events will be determined by local government itself in its spending and rating decisions, and in the extent to which it takes account of national and social requirements and the interests of those who pay rates."

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, says the Government's starting point is the "deep sense of grievance" ratepayers feel about how much they have to pay.

The White Paper says council spending has increased in spite of repeated attempts since 1979 to force it down. Between 1979-80 and 1981-82 council spending in England and Wales fell by 2 per cent but it grew again in 1982-83 by 2½ per cent and by a further 1½ per cent in 1983-84. Much of the growth has been caused by the large numbers of council staff and their pay increases.

Yet some councils have made savings. Many have kept their spending to what the Government thinks is a fair reflecting of their statutory responsibilities. That level, called in the jargon the "grant-related expenditure" (GRE), is to be used for comparison. Among the leading councils, spending ranges from 8 per cent below GRE to 82 per cent above it, surely, the Government says, the high spenders can cut back.

During Mrs Margaret Thatcher's first term, the Government undertook a big review of local taxation and on the basis of a Green Paper published in 1981 examined many alternatives to the rates, including poll tax and local income tax.

"However, it was clear from the response to the Green Paper and from evidence given to the House of Commons environment committee that no consensus can be found for an alternative local tax", the White Paper says.

So, having failed to find an alternative, the Government now proposes action to control rate levels. The primary targets are a small number of authorities, assumed to be Labour city councils although the White Paper does not spell that out, whose spending is excessive in relation to GRE. Several tests of excess spending will be applied - past performance against government targets, for example.

Smaller district councils are to be excluded. Of the 296 shire districts in England about 275 are to be removed from consideration because their budgets are each less than £10m.

The first financial year's spending to come under the scheme will be 1985-86.

As councils prepare their budgets in the autumn of 1984, they will be assessed by civil servants at the Department of the Environment.

Later a small number will be given figures for their permitted rate levies. If they disagree with the department, the Secretary of State will have the power to go to Parliament to put the force of law behind the recommendations.

"The government has had no alternative but to develop the selective rate limitation scheme. The behaviour of a few authorities has made action inevitable."

In case councils in general go on exceeding government guidelines, the White Paper proposes a general power to be held in reserve allowing the Government to set the rates of every authority in the country.

Some small forms are to be made to the rating system.

First, there is to be a revaluation of commercial and industrial property to try to even out changes on property values since the last revaluation in 1973. Also, "the Government are considering urgently the case for a domestic revaluation and will issue a consultation document as soon as possible."

In addition councils are to be forced to hear representations from local business before they set their rates. Empty property is to be relieved of rates from next April. Business ratepayers will have the right to pay by instalments.

Rates: Proposals for Rate Limitation and Reform of the Rating System: Cund 9008 (Stationary Office £3.15).

According to the White Paper, the Government will select a small number of councils in 1984 to have their rates capped in 1985-86. The criteria for selecting those councils include spending performance against government targets and spending according to grant-related expenditure figures (GRE). The two tables propose some candidates on the basis of this year's financial performance.

CANDIDATES FOR RATE CAPPING		COUNCILS IN THE FIRING LINE	
Council	Expenditure in 1982-84 % above GRE	Council	1984-85 Spending % above GRE
City of London	230	GLC	582
Thamesdown (London)	86	Inner London Education Authority	799
GLC	81	Camden	108
South Yorkshire	78	Greenwich	102
LEA	63	Islington	70
Carden	65	Lambeth	101
Greenwich	61	Southwark	93
Tower Hamlets	51	Haringey	122
Lambeth	51	Shamley	130
Leeds	51	Greater Manchester	238
Leeds	51	Manchester	248
Bishop	50	Merseyside	165
Lambeth	50	West Midlands	229
Hackney	37		241

Special factors apply: all councils except the City are Labour. All are Labour-controlled.

Solo Atlantic sailor 130 miles from port

The lone yachtsman, Mr Tom McClean, who is attempting the record for an Atlantic crossing in a boat just seven feet nine inches long was reported as 130 miles from Oporto, Portugal, yesterday.

Mr McClean, who runs an adventure training school near Mallaig, Scotland, could land tomorrow, Mrs Jill McClean said. He had intended landing at Falmouth but was blown south. He is considering travelling overland by lorry and sailing from France later to reach Falmouth as planned.

Legion deserter jailed for armed robberies

A "reformed robber" who became a trumpeter in the French Foreign Legion was jailed for 12 years yesterday. John Williams, aged 34, had escaped a police escort in Chelsea in April last year and fled to France. Mr Peter Jackson, for the defence, said at the Central Criminal Court.

Williams became a handsman, travelling widely abroad. He was told that if he served in the legion for five years, no questions would be asked about his background and he would be given a new identity, a home and French citizenship.

But Williams, of Brompton Road, Chelsea, deserted the legion last April after he "found religion".

Yesterday, he pleaded guilty to taking part with two other men, jailed earlier, in 12 armed robberies at off-licences and shops in north and west London. Their haul totalled £7,500.

Passing sentence, the Recorder, Mr John Alford QC, told Williams: "I hope that you have found a true religious faith. But I cannot allow my view, that these were extremely serious offences, to be altered by your lardered conversion."



On the wing: Wasana Suehan staging an impromptu dress rehearsal with the pigeons outside the Commonwealth Institute yesterday. She is a member of the Thai Classical Dance and Music Group of Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, which will perform the Indian dance-drama, the Ramayana, and traditional dances at the Commonwealth Arts Centre in west London tomorrow. They will be accompanied by the violins, drums, flute and xylophones of the classical Thai orchestra. (Photograph: David Cairns)

Boy gives new lead in hunt for killer of Caroline Hogg

The police searching for the killer of Caroline Hogg, aged five, have a fresh lead - a description of a man who watched children at play.

A boy, aged 12, who was playing football on the Promenade at Portobello, Edinburgh, where the girl disappeared, has described him to the police.

The man sat on the sea wall and watched children, including Caroline, playing on swings and a chute.

The boy, who knew Caroline and her family, ran past the man to retrieve his football from the beach. He told the police that the man had very dirty hands and when he scratched his face it left a dirty mark.

Det Chief Superintendent Brian Cunningham, head of Lochside Borders CID, said yesterday that the boy's description fitted the man last seen in Caroline's company. He was wearing spectacles with thick lenses, possibly tinted, and he wore them pushed up on his head.

The man was wearing a brown jerkin with slanting side pockets, denim jeans and brown shoes. He was carrying a white plastic carrier bag with a red band near the top.

Mr Cunningham said that this was the earliest sighting of the man seen leaving the Fun City amusement park with Caroline on July 8.

Her body was found 10 days later in a ditch near a layby at Twycross, Leicestershire.

Mr Cunningham appealed again for everyone who was on the Promenade between 5pm and 9pm on July 8 to come forward.

Earlier yesterday, two police officers from Edinburgh flew to Düsseldorf to interview a West German holidaymaker. The police have emphasized that Herr Fritz Witte, of Witten, near Dortmund, who was in Portobello on the night the girl vanished, is not a suspect.

In Leicestershire, the police appealed for a couple, who were seen at the layby where Caroline was found, on July 11, 12, 13, to come forward. The police now believe Caroline was left there on July 11.

Italians 'dragging heels' in search for Briton

The father of an English holidaymaker who vanished more than three weeks ago, yesterday accused the Italian authorities of dragging their heels in the search for him.

Mr Graham Watkins, aged 32, a bachelor, of Mirberry Mews, Lenton, Nottinghamshire, has not been seen, or heard from, since he left the seaside home of his sister in Liguria, Italy, for a day's sightseeing on July 7.

His sister, Mr William Watkins, of Chapel Crescent, Southampton said: "I have been in touch with a number of authorities. Nothing seems to be happening. They seem to be playing down the whole thing."

"Everyone seems to be dragging their heels, and meanwhile I have no clue what has happened to Graham."

The missing man's sister, Mrs Judith Nresfield, is the wife of a Nao official, but she ruled out any kidnaper theory.

The missing man, who has worked for Nottingham City Council planning department for five years, had lire worth about only £20 with him when he set off on his day's outing. He was wearing shorts and a summer shirt.

Whitehall brief

Breaking the logjam to clear a path to the top

By Peter Hennessy

A Whitehall economist's life can be precarious, particularly if the practitioner is engaged on the "number crunching" side of the craft.

Mr Denis Healey, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he hoped to do for economic forecasters what the Boston Stranger had done for door-to-door salesmen. The Treasury did not mind. It was rumoured like that which made Mr Healey lovable.

A change of government in 1979 brought Mr Nigel Lawson into the Treasury as Financial Secretary. In terms of temperament and physique, if not of policy, the Treasury sees Mr Lawson as the continuation of Mr Healey by another means. (After a spell at the Department of Energy he is now back as Chancellor.)

In 1979 Mr Lawson wanted to change the Treasury model of the British economy and all but persuaded his then senior minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to do so on the grounds that he was Keynesian, ignored the supply side and was plainly wrong.

Treasury forecasting was saved in early 1980 by Sir Terence Burns, who was brought in from the London Business School at the age of 35 to be chief economic adviser. A forecaster of repute, he enjoyed the confidence of the Thatcherites.

He undertook a review and thanks to his report the model was reworked, given or take a few technical adjustments. The Treasury still has about 30 forecasters with Sir Terence as the interpreter of their findings to administrators and ministers.

Earlier this year his contract was extended. In June he was knighted in the birthday honours list and he will now remain in the Treasury until the end of next year. Part of his time will be devoted to internal affairs of the Government Economic Service (GES) which embraces 375 specialists in 24 departments.

Economists were brought into Whitehall in droves in the late 1960s and early 1970s, with particularly big clusters growing up in the Treasury and the departments of trade, industry, energy, transport and environment.

The old pattern of dons "in-and-outing" from their university faculties was broken. Young people began to arrive in their early 20s with a lifetime's career in mind. Now they are stuck in a lump, 195 of them at economic adviser level, with limited prospects of promotion in a service due to be cut by about 10 per cent from its 1979 peak of 397.

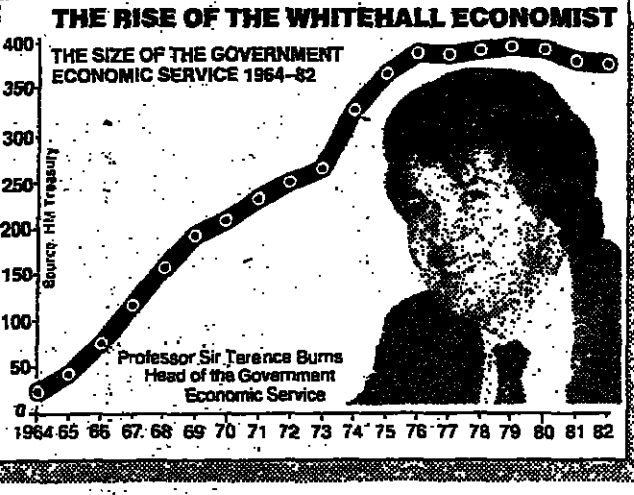
Sir Terence is pondering ways of tackling the matter. The Government is considering extending downwards the principle of unified grading and abolishing the distinction between professionals and administrators. Should that happen the prospect of more mainstream policy jobs would be open for at least some of the 65 GES members at senior economic adviser level.

More "in-outing" could be encouraged. There remains a

fairly buoyant market for Whitehall economists in the outside world.

Sir Terence's first three and a half years have a wider significance. His performance has shown that a political appointee from a faculty-ridden profession working for an ideologically charged Government can gain and retain the

confidence of ministers, civil servants and fellow economists. How has he done it? His friends say it is because of his cardinal rule that one should not behave like a political appointee, that professional rigour demands one's customers do not receive only those answers they want to hear.



Court of Appeal

Device to avoid capital transfer tax fails

Inland Revenue Commissioners v Trustees of Sir John Aird's Settlement

Before Lord Justice Waller, Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Robert Goff

[Judgment delivered July 25]

The tax avoidance device known as the "Newspaper-Franco" scheme was ineffective to exempt from the charge to capital transfer tax appointments to beneficiaries of property held by trustees on discretionary trusts. The scheme did not succeed in bringing into operation the exemption from charge contained in paragraph 6(7) of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1975.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments allowed an appeal by the Crown from the decision of Mr Justice Nourse (The Times, December 21, 1981; [1982] 1 WLR 270) who had held that appointments of settled property made to Sir George John Aird and Miss Susan Aird were not chargeable to the tax.

The trustees of the settlement were refused leave to appeal.

On November 28, 1975, the trustees of the late Sir John Repton Aird's discretionary settlement made two irrevocable appointments of parts of the settled property in favour of two of the settlor's children, Sir George John Aird (Sir John) and Miss Susan Aird.

The appointments were contingent on the appointees surviving for one day "the person whose death shall occur on Saturday November 29, 1975, and who shall be the first (in alphabetical order) of the persons dying on that date to be named in the deaths column of the same page of the earliest edition of the newspaper called The Times published in London on Monday, December 1, 1975 (or if there shall be no edition of The Times published on that date then of the earliest edition of that newspaper which is next published in London after that date)".

On December 1, 1975, The Times was published and named Major Peter Biggood as having died the previous Saturday. The appointees both survived Major Biggood by the period of one day and thus became absolutely entitled to the appointed property.

The Board of Inland Revenue issued the trustees with notices of

determination, stating that by virtue of paragraph 6(2) of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1975, capital distributions of £140,964 and £21,736 on which the tax was payable were to be treated as having been made on the occasion of the appointments becoming absolutely entitled to the property.

Hearing appeals against both notices, the special commissioners upheld the trustees' argument that the provisions of paragraph 6(7) of Schedule 5 to the Act, exempting from charge beneficiaries of discretionary trusts who on surviving another person for a specified period became entitled to interests in the property, applied to the appointments. Both notices were accordingly quashed.

Mr John Knox, QC and Mr Michael Hart for the Crown; Mr Edward Dixon and Mr Robert Walker, QC for the trustees.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that capital transfer tax was first introduced in 1975. The Finance Act 1975 contained transitional provisions enabling discretionary settlements to be taken out of the onerous discretionary regime at reduced charges.

However, until amendment in 1976, the charging provisions on their face pertained transfers from the "discretionary regime" into the "interest in possession regime" without any charge at all by the simple device of appointing the settled funds in a particular way. That device was used by the trustees for good reason that an exemption ought to be provided to meet a situation which would have involved double taxation of the same property as a result of the same disposition.

Fortunately or unfortunately, according to one's point of view, the legislature, in leaving deliberately a loophole for the obvious case of hardship conceived, so it was held, to open a gateway wide enough to accommodate the proverbial coach and horses.

Paragraph 6(7) was introduced to relieve settled property from the charge under paragraph 6(2) in certain circumstances. The difficulty was in determining the ambit of the provision. All that it appeared to require was an appointment of the property that vesting was (a) conditional on surviving for a short

Law Report August 2 1983

No rights for mistress

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Knox's alternative argument was more formidable. The paragraph could not, he submitted, apply to Sir John's case where survival of another person for the requisite period was genuinely the contingency on which in the event the interest depended.

He submitted that as a matter of construction the appointment in the instant case was not a surviving not to some uncertain point of time calculated by reference to the time of death of the decedent but to a time which could be predicted at the date of the appointment - namely, midnight on November 30, 1975.

From that he proceeded to the submission that the contingency on which the interest actually depended was something quite other than surviving the death of another person.

Mr Knox was right in submitting that the appointment required was not an "on" surviving. Major Biggood by one day but on a quite different contingency.

The critical thing that caused the interest to vest was not the previous death of a person but the event of the relative of some person who died on that Saturday causing a notice of his death to be notified in time for inclusion in Monday's Times and the subsequent publication of that newspaper. What caused the interest to vest was either Sir John's surviving, that insertion and publication until midnight on Sunday or if the publication took place after midnight, the publication itself.

That was the reality of the position and that was not on surviving another person for a specified period "unless the word 'on' was used (as it could not have been) in the purely temporal sense of denoting the termination of the specified period.

The appeal should be allowed.

Lord Justice Waller delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Robert Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Travers Smith Braithwaite & Co.

persons did not apply to unmarried couples.

In Hall v Hall (1982) 3 FLR 379, 381 Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said: "It depends on all the circumstances and how much she has contributed - not merely in money but also in keeping up the house; and, if there are children, in looking after them. His Lordship did not find support for that in the other authorities and did not think that it was consistent with principle."

It was not clear to what extent the matter was material in Hall v Hall. So far as looking after children was concerned, it appeared, that there were no children.

That case seemed to have proceeded on the concession made by the man that the woman was entitled by way of resulting trust to a share in the house. The parties had lived together for seven years and it was accepted by the man that he could not have bought the house but for the fact that both were earning. The parties, in fact, pooled their resources.

Accordingly, that case might well have been one where the woman, through the pooling of their income, made a contribution, direct or indirect, to the mortgage payments.

In his Lordship's opinion, the plaintiff had failed to demonstrate the existence of any trust in her favour.

For those reasons the appeal had to be dismissed. His Lordship would only add that the plaintiff had entered upon her relationship with the defendant knowing that there was no prospect of his marrying her.

She lived with him for 19 years as man and wife and, at the end of it, had no rights against him. But the unfairness of that was not a matter which the courts could control. It was a matter for Parliament.

LORD JUSTICE MAY, agreeing, said that if a man and woman married, acquired a home, lived in it together, brought up children, but sadly, sooner or later separated and divorced, the courts had a wide discretion to adjust their subsequent respective financial situations under the provisions of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

In particular the court had power to determine the spouses' respective

Court of Appeal

rights to the matrimonial home which was usually the family's main asset.

However, it was becoming increasingly frequent that couples lived together without being married but just as if they were so. They acquired a home for themselves and their children whom they brought up in the same way as the family next door.

Nevertheless it also happened, just like their married friends, that differences arose between the couple and they separated. In some cases the couple agreed what was to happen to their joint home.

But if they did not agree they went to the courts for the resolution of their dispute. In such a case there was no statute which gave the court similar powers to those which it had as between husband and wife.

His Lordship agreed that the principles the court must apply were those laid down in the two cases of Pettit v Pettit (1970) AC 777 and Gissing v Gissing (1971) AC 856.

As Parliament had not legislated for the unmarried couple as it had for those who had, the courts should be slow to attempt to legislate themselves.

It followed that in disputes between unmarried couples who had broken up, the courts did not have a general power to do what they thought was fair and reasonable in all the circumstances, as they had under the appropriate provisions of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

His Lordship thought that the dictum of Lord Denning in Hall v Hall, that the woman's contribution to the family well-being by keeping the house and looking after the children could be taken into account in assessing the extent to which a resulting trust had arisen in her favour was wrong.

When one compared the ultimate result with what it would have been had the plaintiff been married to the defendant and been appropriate steps under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, his Lordship thought that she could justifiably say that fate had not been kind to her. However, the remedy for any inequality was a matter for Parliament and not for the court.

Lord Justice Waller delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Boyes, Sutton & Perry, Barnet.

سكزا من الأهل

Shortage of food and jobs as Sri Lanka hope lies in ruins

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo (censored)

The advertisements for investment in Sri Lanka read rather ironically now. "Best bet in the Third World", they say. Until about a week ago it was true. The Sri Lanka economy was expanding at an average rate of five per cent - far better than the developed countries could manage, and seemingly unaffected by the oil price crisis.

Tamil-owned businesses account for between 50 and 60 per cent of the commercial life of the capital and they have been destroyed - scientifically extracted from among their neighbours and burned. The vast majority of the food distribution network was in Tamil hands. The Pettah market, which was the centre of the food trade, is today a smoking ruin.

Tamil stabbed to death in Paris

Paris (AFP) - A Tamil man was stabbed to death, and two other people were injured in a scuffle between Tamil and Sinhalese groups in Paris on Sunday night.

Churches draft unity charter

Vancouver (AP) - The world's divided churches have before them a new charter for unity and they are celebrating it at their world conference.



Book for all: Dr Runcie raising the Bible during a service for all Christian denominations in Vancouver.

The historic agreement, reached by official representatives of the various churches, including the Roman Catholics, was the basis for a service on Sunday. By turns, a dozen of the participants read the Scriptures and led prayers and liturgies - Catholic, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox, clergy and laity of various languages and nations.

Dr Runcie led the celebration. He said that Christians "from all over the world proclaim afresh the power of the risen Christ to rescue a broken and divided humanity".

Crime Down Under, part 2: Pornography and drugs Sex and psychedelics out of control

In the second of two articles on crime in Australia, TONY DUBOUDIN, Melbourne Correspondent, looks at the dimensions of the vice industry.

Revelations on the extent of pornography and organized prostitution have particularly shocked Australians reading the findings of two recent reports on crime in the country. Pornography, according to Mr Douglas Meagher QC, who assisted a royal commission into tax evasion by the Ship's Painters and Dockers Union, has become big business with enormous amounts of money involved and high profits gained by the organizers.



Cut grass: Victoria police taking away an illegal marijuana crop after a raid on a country property.

"All the evidence points to a major criminal organization in Australia operating in this field and dominating it", Mr Meagher said in a report released last month.

"It consists of the same people as those controlling prostitution. In this area it has sought to preserve anonymity by operation through many companies, the officers and shareholders of which cannot readily be related back to the organization."

The report also highlights another side of the prostitution racket, with evidence of deliberate attempts to corrupt customers who occupy "significant positions" in the community. Photographs or videos are used to blackmail victims who are asked to show favour to the organization.

He quoted one example where, during the Second World War, Maori women bared their breasts to a Maori Cabinet minister. Dr Maui Pomare, who was bringing conscription proposals.

Maori fined over protest during royal visit

The man who bared his buttocks to the Prince and Princess of Wales when the royal couple visited Wellington in April was yesterday fined \$NZ425 (about £170) for offensive behaviour.

He investigated a total of 173 complaints made by 74 people and sustained 75 of them.

Spain takes softer line on Rock

Spain is willing to relax further restrictions over Gibraltar "if reasons of negotiating strategy so indicate", according to Señor Fernando Morán, the Foreign Minister.

Spain takes softer line on Rock

The minister's remarks, reported here yesterday were made at a news conference last Saturday in San Roque, almost within sight of the Rock. He was delivering a lecture on contemporary Spanish literature during a summer course intended to bring citizens of Gibraltar and Spain closer.

Spain takes softer line on Rock

He said to have met about 20 Gibraltar "doves" at the weekend as well as the mayors of Spanish towns in the area. There was, however, apparently no contact with prominent political leaders from the colony.

Britain 'endorses Turkey's road to democracy'

From Rasit Garvilek, Ankara

Mr İtör Turkmen, the Turkish Foreign Minister, just back from an official visit to London, says Britain endorses the programme for democracy of the country's military rulers; and that the two countries will work together to combat international terrorism.

Britain has given Turkey for the past three years. Pointing to "substantial developments" in economic relations and defence cooperation, Mr Turkmen also praised the firm stance adopted by Britain against Armenian terrorism: He said not all countries appreciated that effective worldwide cooperation was necessary for the struggle against international terrorism.

He was particularly critical of the failure of the Lebanese Government to adopt effective measures against the Armenian terrorists "despite Turkey's repeated warnings".

"I don't think any country would take upon itself the task of proposing it as an agenda subject, as it would set a precedent extremely dangerous for all countries", he said.

Mr Turkmen expressed scepticism as to the prospect of the "Armenian genocide" being debated at the United Nations, as called for by the recent congress of Armenians held in Lusanna.

Russians deride West's oil forecast

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A leading Soviet economist has poured scorn on Western predictions of a drop in Soviet oil output, claiming that Russia does not need Western technology to develop the energy resources of Siberia.

Writing in *Pravda* yesterday, Mr Abel Aganbegyan said that this year Siberia would provide 60 per cent of the Soviet Union's oil production and over 50 per cent of its gas output. Annual oil extraction was running at about 20 million tons.

"I cannot but remember the short sighted forecasters of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), who predicted a fall in oil output in Siberia in the early eighties", Mr Aganbegyan wrote. The CIA has also wrongly forecast that Russia would not be able to develop its oil industry without Western help.

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	£20	£2,374	£3,917	£4,302
	£15	£1,754	£2,894	£3,179
35	£50	£5,073	£10,020	£11,006
	£25	£2,984	£4,922	£5,407
	£20	£2,366	£3,903	£4,287
	£15	£1,748	£2,884	£3,168
45	£50	£5,986	£9,876	£10,847
	£25	£2,940	£4,851	£5,328
	£20	£2,332	£3,847	£4,228
	£15	£1,723	£2,842	£3,121
55	£50	£5,753	£9,492	£10,426
	£25	£2,826	£4,682	£5,121
	£20	£2,241	£3,697	£4,061
	£15	£1,656	£2,732	£3,001

Notes: (1) Your Guaranteed Sum Assured may be even more than shown above. This is because the table only shows selected ages, whereas we will even allow for 1/2 years of age in calculating your Guaranteed Sum Assured. (2) Figures are available, on request, for ages other than shown above. The upper age limit for the plan is 74, and the maximum initial payment under this offer is £50 per month. (3) The Reversionary Bonus illustrated assumes that the current rate of 8.5% per annum of the Sum Assured applies throughout the 10-year period. The Terminal Bonus is calculated at the current rate of 25% of the Reversionary Bonus. Future bonuses depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed. (4) Secure Savings Plan is designed to give its optimum results after 10 years, and we do not recommend cashing in before 10 years, as the payout will be reduced and in the early years may be less than the premiums paid in. (5) The figures quoted assume that the current rate of tax relief (15% of gross premium) applies throughout the term of the policy. Should the Government change the rate, the amount you pay will be adjusted accordingly. You qualify for this relief unless you are already spending more than £1,500 a year or a sixth of your income on life assurance plans. (6) The above figures apply to male lives. For the same age and monthly premium, female lives will usually receive slightly higher benefits. (7) This contract is only available to persons resident in the United Kingdom.

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US tells Gaddafi to end Chad bombing raids and pull out all troops

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States has accused Libya of open aggression and of using Soviet-built fighter-bombers and helicopter gunships to bomb Faya-Largeau, the oasis town in northern Chad retaken by government troops on Saturday.

Libya denies the bombing. If it is true it represents the first direct involvement of the Libyan Air Force in the present wave of fighting.

The State Department called on Colonel Gaddafi to cease the bombing raids immediately and to withdraw its military forces from Chad.

A US Navy spokesman yesterday was unable to confirm a television report here that the aircraft carrier Eisenhower, previously scheduled to conduct flight manoeuvres off the Libyan coast, had been placed on alert status in the Mediterranean in response to the Libyan air raids on Chad.

Pentagon sources expected Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State to discuss the situation.

The State Department statement said that several Libyan bombing raids against the vast date-palm grove of Faya-Largeau took place on Sunday after President Hissène Habré's forces had recaptured the town from the Libyan-backed rebel forces of the former Chad President, Mr Goukouni Oueddei.

It said: "The Libyan bombing inside Chad constitutes a further flagrant and unprovoked outside intervention in the internal affairs of Chad and represents a dangerous escalation of the situation."

"The US condemns this open aggression by Libyan armed forces. Libya should cease its bombing raids immediately and should withdraw its military forces from Chad."

"Libya's action further escalates and changes the nature of the conflict in Chad. This overt Libyan intervention is dangerous to the stability in the region."

It said that the US was consulting on "an urgent basis" with friendly governments,

including the French, who are backing the pro-Western Government of President Habré.

About two weeks ago the US began urgently airlifting about 60m worth of military supplies for Chad. These military supplies were reported to include clothing, foodstuffs, radios, jeeps, lorries, ammunition and arms. The supplies would also help to support Zaire's forces in defence of Chad.

NDJAMENA: Libyan warplanes yesterday continued

France reaffirms arms support

France is willing to "adapt its logistical support" to Chad even though, according to Mr Max Gallo, the French government spokesman, it has not changed its position towards the country (Roger Beardwood reports).

President Hissène Habré of Chad called on France, the US and three African countries at the weekend for air cover to counter attacks by Libyan fighter bombers supporting rebels.

Mr Gallo emphasized that France was already supplying Chad with anti-aircraft weapons, provided for in a 1976 agreement between the countries.

to pound Faya-Largeau (AFP, Reuter and AP reports).

Official Chadian sources said the Libyan aircraft made three raids on the town 500 miles north of the Chadian capital of Ndjamena.

"Reports from the north Chad state that forces of the Chadian Government of National Unity under the leadership of Goukouni Oueddei have besieged the city of Faya-Largeau and that Hissène Habré is completely encircled."

GENEVA: Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, called yesterday for an end to the fighting in Chad, (Reuter reports).

Mr Sumaila said that in most cases, the Libyan bombs had not hit their targets. Libyan aircraft had attacked Faya-Largeau twice on Sunday,

making a total of 10 raids on the town since it was seized from Mr Goukouni's troops the day before.

The Information Minister said the situation was not critical, but if the Libyans kept up their bombing raids, there would be enormous losses. "The fighting is well and truly over in the Faya-Largeau region, but we have taken more prisoners, including Libyans, during mopping-up operations yesterday evening and this morning", he said.

A total of 300 enemy soldiers were killed in the recapture of the town, the Chadian high command said.

Another 1,200 were captured during the four-hour battle for the town which fell to Goukouni forces on June 24. No details of government losses in the weekend battle were given.

The communiqué said several high-ranking officers were captured and an enormous quantity of military equipment seized after the battle which the Chadian news agency called "a victory of democratic forces over the Islamic legion and Gaddafi's mercenaries".

It included 10 ground-to-ground missiles, eight 120mm guns, eight Jeeps equipped with 106mm guns and four Brazilian-made Cascavel armoured vehicles.

The Government had no comment on a Libyan claim that troops loyal to President Habré were trapped and encircled by rebel forces in Faya-Largeau.

In Tripoli the Libyan news agency Jana said Mr Habré's army was surrounded in the town by rebel forces.

"Reports from the north Chad state that forces of the Chadian Government of National Unity under the leadership of Goukouni Oueddei have besieged the city of Faya-Largeau and that Hissène Habré is completely encircled."

GENEVA: Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, called yesterday for an end to the fighting in Chad, (Reuter reports).



Sadat's brother freed from detention

Mr Esmat Sadat and his sister, Sekina, shouting "God is great" when a Cairo court announced yesterday that he and three of his sons were being released from preventive detention. He is the brother of the late Egyptian president. Mr Esmat Sadat and his sons were sentenced in February to a year's detention on corruption charges. The Supreme Court of Ethics upheld the earlier verdict of the Ethics Court, which

ordered the impounding for five years of all property belonging to Mr Sadat and his sons. It is said to be worth about \$80m. Mr Sadat and his sons, Talat, Galal and Muhammad Anwar, were originally sentenced for "corruption, embezzlement and harming public interests". The Ethics Court placed them in preventive detention, arguing that they represented a danger to society. Preventive detention is not considered a penal sanction. The

Attorney General must now consider whether any of the Esmat Sadat family allegedly committed acts liable to penal sanctions. If so, they will have to appear before a criminal court. Mr Sadat and the accused members of his family were arrested last October and convicted on a total of 24 charges, including undermining the economic interests of society, political corruption and amassing fortunes by usurping state property and assets.

Iraq leader with troops at front

Baghdad (Reuter) - President Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday visited the central sector of the Gulf War battlefield, where Iraq said it had killed more than 5,000 Iranian troops at the weekend.

The official Iraqi news agency, INA said the president, who is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, was accompanied by the Defence Minister, General Adnan Kheirallah, to the area held by the Second Army Corps about 100 miles east of Baghdad. It was his third reported troop inspection in 10 days.

The Iraqi high command said its aircraft and helicopter gunships had carried out further raids on Iranian positions in the central sector. The Iraqis claimed they killed 5,324 Iranian troops on Saturday in repelling an offensive against the border town of Zubairiyah.

TEHRAN: The Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Vellavati, said yesterday that Iran would fight on against Iraq in the Gulf until Baghdad accepted three Iranian peace conditions.

The conditions were complete Iraqi withdrawal from Iranian territory, payment by Baghdad of war damages, and the punishment of Iraq for invading Iran, he said in an interview with Reuters.

As a first stage Iran was demanding that Iraq simply accept these conditions. Details of their implementation would be tackled later.

He added, however, that Iran had seen no sign that Iraq was moving towards accepting the Iranian terms.

ANKARA: Turkey yesterday urged Iran and Iraq to ensure that fighting between them did not threaten its own interests (Reuter reports). Mr Iler Turkmen, the Turkish Foreign Minister, who gave the warning, played down fears, however, that fresh outbreaks of fighting could threaten an oil pipeline running from Kirkuk in central Iraq to Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

BBC man first victim of ban

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Representatives of the Foreign Correspondents' Association of southern Africa are to seek urgent talks in Zimbabwe today over a ban on foreign correspondents based in South Africa from covering events in the "front-line" states.

Information ministers of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Zambia, Tanzania and Botswana who met at Kadoma (formerly Gatooma) at the weekend, stated in a communiqué that the use of South Africa as a base by international news agencies and other media results in a distorted view and misrepresentation "of our region".

The executive of the association which represents 53 news organizations, decided at a meeting in Johannesburg yesterday to send a delegation immediately to Zimbabwe to seek meetings with diplomatic representatives of the front-line

states and Western nations affected by the ban, as well as with appropriate Zimbabwe Government officials.

It said in a statement it was concerned with the ramifications of the information ministers' declaration and that it deplored any restriction that would impede the free flow of information.

It urged its members, most of whom are based in South Africa, to inform their home offices of the seriousness of the front-line ministers' action and to ask them to bring the matter to the attention of their governments.

The information ministers noted that some news organizations had established offices in independent countries of southern Africa. But some correspondents felt last night that such action could be a prelude to forcing international agencies and the media

out of the southern African region altogether.

HARARE: The first correspondent to be affected here was Mr Philip Hayton, the southern African correspondent of BBC television, who arrived in Zimbabwe on assignment on Friday from his base in Johannesburg (Stephen Taylor writes).

Mr Hayton said he had reported to the Department of Information yesterday and been advised: "The sooner you leave the better." He said: "I am surprised and disappointed, I have done my utmost to report accurately."

The Government spokesman said: "This is not a decision aimed against British or American journalists, it is a decision by the front-line states against the principle of journalists covering our countries while being based in racist South Africa."

Menuhin to play at Niven's funeral

Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland (Reuter) - Yehudi Menuhin the violinist, will play at the funeral here today of David Niven, friends of the British actor said yesterday.

Niven, who died at his Alpine chalet last Friday, aged 73, will be buried in the town graveyard after a ceremony in the Anglican church of St Peter, according to Mr Alistair Forbes, the family's spokesman.

It had earlier been announced that the service would be held in the nearby Evangelical Reform Church. But Niven's two sons, who arrived from the United States on Sunday, decided it would be more appropriate in the smaller Anglican church, where the actor's two adopted daughters were christened.

Menuhin, a friend of Niven when he was in Gstaad, plans to play the andante from Mendelssohn's Octet.

Case of the poison pudding

Kemper, West Germany (AFP) - Police here believe they have uncovered a real life Agatha Christie plot in which a pensioner murdered two husbands and a lover with poison in their favourite dessert: her homemade pudding.

Frau Maria Velten, aged 67, had a previous conviction for poisoning local cats. Now police believe that was a rehearsal for more serious things to come.

Deserter admits four murders

Clermont-Ferrand (Reuter) - A 23-year-old deserter from the French Foreign Legion confessed yesterday to four murders committed over the past year in the rugged Ardeche region of Central France, police said.

He was alleged to have admitted killing the head of a home for juvenile delinquents, two young holidaymakers and a Marseilles public works employee.

Hanoi jails Jesuit priests

Hanoi, (AFP) - the people's court of Ho Chi Minh city has given long prison terms to 13 people, including five Jesuit priests, charged with trying to "overthrow the revolutionary government of Vietnam" according to the Vietnam News Agency.

One of the Jesuits, Father Nguyen Van hien, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Animal protest

Delhi (AFP) - Thousands of schoolchildren wearing animal masks marched through the streets of the Indian capital to arouse public opinion against cruelty to animals. Camels, horses, donkeys and bullock carts carrying bears and monkeys were part of the procession.

Death lorry

Cape Town (AP) - A lorry was involved in two accidents here that killed 18 people in four days. Five died when their car and the lorry collided on a coastal road. Later a bus carrying 70 picnickers hit the stationary vehicle, killing 13 passengers and injuring 57.

9,000 years ago

Amman (AP) - Statues of men, women and children dating back to 7,000 years before Christ have been discovered in the Stone Age village of Ein Ghazal near here, Jordan's antiquities department announced.

Friars freed

Prague (AFP) - The Czechoslovak authorities have surprised Eastern block observers here with the unusually quick release of 16 Franciscans who were detained just before Easter in an anti-religion swoop.

Train sabotage

Lisbon, (Reuter) - Angolan Unita Guerrillas claimed yesterday that 78 people died and 319 were injured in a train carrying Government troops and Cuban advisers which was destroyed by a mine in Eastern Angola last week.

Wheelchair trip

Vienna (AP) - Georg Freund, a 40-year-old Austrian paraplegic, arrived here yesterday, tired but happy after a 2,500-mile, 58-day trip across Europe in a wheelchair.

Army chief

Delhi (AFP) - General Arun Shrivastava (aged 57, has formally taken over as Indian Chief of Army Staff.

Out of court

Norfolk, Virginia (AP) - Martins Navratilova, the Wimbledon champion, has been fined \$20 (£13) for speeding and abusing a Norfolk police officer.

Prisoners of conscience



Soviet Union: Vladimir Poresh

Vladimir Poresh, a young Russian Orthodox activist who worked as an historian in the library of the Academy of Sciences, has been awaiting trial for four years on a charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

He was arrested at his home in Leningrad on August 1, 1979, after a search during which religious samizdat were confiscated. He has two children, one of whom was born after his arrest.

In 1974 an unofficial seminar of Orthodox Christians was founded in Moscow, with a branch in Leningrad. During the late 1970s several members of the group were subjected to harassment, interrogation, searches and brief periods of detention at police stations, as well as job dismissals and manhandling by police.

They were told that the seminar was "anti-Soviet". Two members, Alexander Argentov and Edward Fedotov, were forcibly sent to psychiatric hospitals. Mr Poresh campaigned actively for their release.

Mr Poresh was one of the editors of the group's samizdat journal Community, and at the time of his arrest 11 copies were confiscated with other religious samizdat. He was told that he was being charged with "circulating fabrications known to be false, which defame the Soviet state and social system".

Since then, however, the charge has been changed to the more severe Article 70 of the criminal code, which carries a maximum sentence of seven years in prison followed by five of internal exile.



Vladimir Poresh: Four years without trial.

Atom safety chief picked by Moscow

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday appointed a new atomic safety committee chairman after an unexplained accident at a nuclear reactor plant.

An announcement by the presidium of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) said Mr Yevgeny Kulov had been made head of the state committee for supervision of the safe conduct of work in the atomic power generating industry.

The committee was formed two weeks ago after a serious mishap at the Atomash reactor plant at Volgogradsk, south of Moscow. Pravda reported that the Atomash management had been censured for negligence and said urgent measures were being taken to correct mistakes, but did not give details.

Foreign nuclear experts who visited the site shortly before the accident said that quality control appeared to be lax, and speculated that a building might have collapsed after an explosion.

Mr Kulov, who is 54, has been deputy Minister of Medium Machine Building for the past year.

Onassis must pay duty now

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A Greek tax court rejected yesterday a request by Miss Christina Onassis, the shipping heiress, that a payment of death duties on her late father's Greek estate should be deferred until her appeal is heard.

Miss Onassis is appealing against a lower tax court's decision that she must pay death duties and a 100 per cent fine for failing to declare the inheritance. The total sum involved is said to be £21.8m.

The tax court decided that the only valid ground for granting a deferment of the payment of cumulative instalments amounting so far to £8m would be "a financial inability to pay", which, it said, was hardly applicable to Miss Onassis.

In her appeal, which is expected to be judged early next autumn, Miss Onassis has challenged the Greek tax authorities' claim on the ground that her father was never a resident of Greece.

A secondary appeal was against the "exorbitant" assessment of the value of the property, especially Skorpis, the Onassis private island.

Mont Blanc avalanches kill five

By Our Foreign Staff

All over the world people are dying in freak weather. In India at least 713 people have drowned in floods in 11 states in north and east in the past month.

The floods, set off by monsoon rains, have damaged 185,000 houses and killed 94,887 cattle, according to Mr Yogendra Makwana, the Agriculture Minister.

In China 103 people were

killed and 440 injured in Guangdong province alone in the typhoon which battered the south-east coast last week, the provincial newspaper Nanyang Daily reported.

In Japan at least 52 people have died in water accidents in the past few days as holiday-makers flocked to beaches and pools seeking relief from temperatures soaring into the nineties.

Assad dispels hope of Syrian withdrawal

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

As if to mock President Reagan's professed optimism that Syria will order its troops out of Lebanon, President Assad and his minister have been going out of their way over the past two days to crush any hopes of a Syrian military withdrawal.

No sooner had Mr Robert McFarlane, Mr Reagan's new Middle East envoy, arrived in Beirut than President Assad himself announced that his soldiers would "continue to confront the (Israeli) usurpers on Lebanese soil".

Yesterday, the Syrian press gave wide publicity to a statement by the Minister of Culture who claimed that the United States was setting the stage for an Israeli attack on Syrian troops in Lebanon.

with the encouragement of the Lebanese Government - that he will try to arrange a limited disengagement of the Syrian and Israeli armies in the Bekaa Valley that would permit troops of the multinational force to control the Beirut-Damascus highway.

The Syrians, however, are well aware that such a disengagement would cut their army off from the Chouf mountains, from which the Israelis are about to withdraw, and thus lessen their influence over the Druze militias there that are opposed to President Amin Gemayel's Government in Beirut.

General John Vesey, chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff, held talks here yesterday with President Gemayel and also with General Ibrahim Tannous, the Lebanese Army commander, whose troops will have to deploy into

the Chouf mountains when the Israelis leave. General Vesey later flew out of Beirut at short notice, summoned by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, apparently because of rising concern over Libya's involvement in Chad.

If Mr McFarlane can persuade the Syrians to move back from the mountains when the Israelis begin their own withdrawal, it will make the task of the Lebanese Army much easier; but there is no evidence that Syria is inclined to oblige.

The United States wants to exhaust Syria in the Bekaa and north Lebanon in preparation for a new Israeli blow. Mrs Najah Attar, the Syrian Minister of Culture said, "They want only Syria to withdraw from Lebanon, while one way or another Israel will stay on there".

Dream harvest for addicts in Hongkong

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong

The third consecutive bumper opium crop in the Golden Triangle (Thailand, Laos and Burma) has led to a flood of stunged cheap heroin into Hongkong and the authorities believe the drug has never been cheaper or more plentiful here.

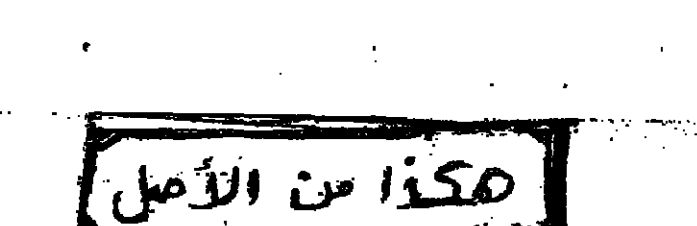
Addicts can now buy a 0.1 gram packet of heroin (at 30 per cent "purity") for about \$HK3.

Before July, 1979 the wholesale cost of heroin was \$HK46,000 per kilogram, but the smuggling market has now dropped to \$HK28,700 and is still becoming cheaper.

According to the narcotics division of the Government Secretariat, 538 kilograms of opiate-related drugs were seized in Hongkong in the first six months of this year.

Both Syria and Lebanon celebrated their Army Days yesterday with appropriate though quite different expressions of confidence. While Lieutenant-General Mustafa Tlass, the Syrian Defence Minister, praised the Soviet Union for helping Syria to achieve "a strategic balance with the enemy", General Tannous insisted that the Lebanese Army would eventually extend the state's authority to every corner of the country.

AMMAN: King Hussein of Jordan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia have called for Arab unity and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon after lengthy talks in the Saudi resort of Taif yesterday. They also urged Arab states to support the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the official Jordanian news agency Petra said (Reuter reports).



THE ARTS

Opera: John Higgins assesses the climax of the 'British Ring' Musical vision truly reflected in nature

Götterdämmerung Bayreuth

Just before 11pm on Saturday the halls of the Gibichung collapsed...

For the musical side, a little surprisingly for Bayreuth these days, there was nothing but audience approval...

Hall and Dudley, to the obvious fury of sections of the audience, critics and public alike, have stuck with their concept of the Ring as a fairy-story with distinctly adult emotions...

William Dudley's greatest success in this Ring, where the eye is constantly on the look-out for some new surprise, have been in the forest scenes, where nature, stark or grave or dappled, has been a constant reflector of the music...

much to herself in the Eighties as Nilsson did in the Sixties. And it has been conducted by Sir Georg Solti with passionate grandeur counterbalanced by lucid authority.

The question remaining is whether Solti, Hall and Dudley should have bowed to Bayreuth practice and agreed to put on so technically complex a Ring in a single week rather than spreading it over a couple of festivals. The answer on balance is "Yes".

His assassin, Hagen, was Aage Haugland, massive in form and voice, a triple-dyed villain totally immersed in evil thoughts and a true son of Alberich (Hermann Becht again outstanding during his brief appearance). The rulers of the Gibichung, Günther and Gutrune, lacked character. Bent Norup, possibly still recovering from his assumption of Wotan at all notice a couple of nights earlier, was restrained until a stirring account of the blood-brotherhood duet with Siegfried.

And so via Norbert Balatsch's chorus, marvellously individualized and trained to peak performance pitch, to Brünnhilde herself, Hildegard Behrens. From the first appearance in Walküre Miss Behrens announced her intention of being a Wagnerian dramatic soprano of the first rank. Her tones have been consistently free and pure, sending a shiver of pleasure down the spine when she is at full throttle. Only the

bottom register has a tendency to disappear into the orchestra. She has, quite obviously, struck a working relationship of total understanding with Solti and Hall, being at one with the conductor's tempi and accepting the producer's demands, so that Brünnhilde becomes a warm, vital creature of feminine blood, warrior and lover, abandoned and deceived before finally assuming her father's authority in a gloriously sung Immolation Scene. A great performance in her first Brünnhilde.

Solti and his orchestra were, predictably, at their finest in these closing moments. There had been some instrumental fluffs towards the end of a stiffling hot week together with some playing of extreme delicacy (the prelude to the last scene of Act I) and sumptuousness (Siegfried's Funeral March). Decca's technicians will indeed have something to capture when they return next year. The company's embarrassment will be what to do with Solti's existing Ring.

By next year too there will need to be some recasting, mainly in the minor roles. The Donner and Fröh are both overparted by Bayreuth standards; the German mezzos have been disappointing. But this Ring has thrown up a fine clutch of baritones and basses and a very promising new Norwegian soprano, Aage Gjevvang, and it has established Hildegard Behrens at the top of her profession. Messrs Hall, Solti and Dudley have had their setbacks, principally with the massive expenditure of time on a Siegfried that was, it seems, redundant. They can be well satisfied with their work on the Ring together, the fairy-tale that needs time and technical polishing to come true. Next year there will be no new production, so the chance is there. It is likely to be grasped.



Hildegard Behrens: a Brünnhilde for the Eighties

Galleries Extraordinary faculty of fresh response

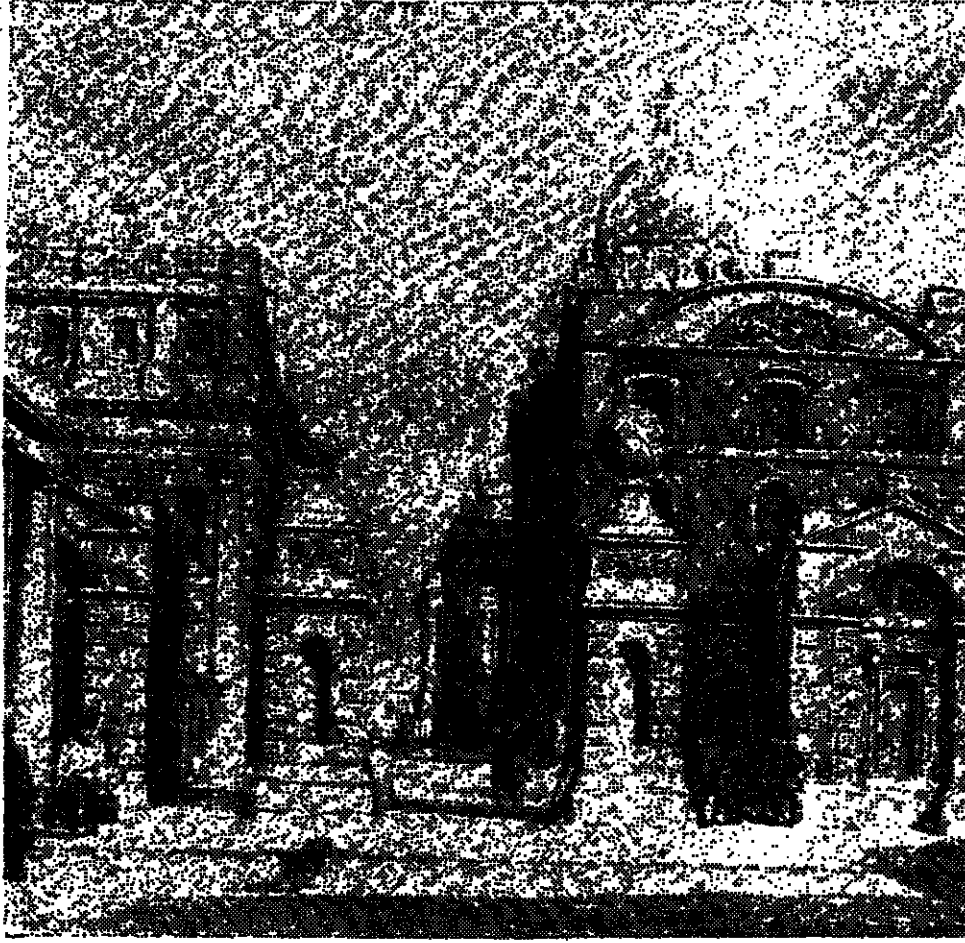
David Cox Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery/Anthony Reed

Lilian Holt Gillian Jason

Last month, amid the feast of new shows on in London, there was one which I just did not have the space and time to write about, though were it still on in this month's famine I should no doubt leap upon it with cries of delight. It was Some Masterpieces from Manchester City Art Gallery, at David Carrin, and I mention it now only on account of one picture (which, of course, you could always post off to Manchester to see if you missed its London airing): Rhyd Sands, by David Cox. Though I must certainly have seen it before, in Manchester it was never a work I stopped and paid special attention to; in this temporary new context, despite some spectacular competition, it stood right out from the wall. How, one asked oneself, could a work of so much glittering light and joyous freedom in the handling of paint, a classic Impressionist canvas if you ever saw one, have been painted in Britain in the early 1850s?

And, one might have added, by David Cox of all people? Happily, the answer to the second part of the enigma was at hand. Since it happens to be the bicentenary of Cox's birth this year, Birmingham, where he came from and ended his days, has decided to stage the necessary major commemorative exhibition with David Cox 1783-1859, at the City Art Gallery until October 14 (after which it comes to the Victoria and Albert in November). The commemoration is necessary, as well as piously desirable, because Cox tends to be one of those artists who slip all too readily into a convenient pigeonhole where they can be respected and forgotten.

The pigeonhole in "belated representative of the classic English watercolour school" and to a large extent Cox chose it for himself. He had an uneventful life, and accounts of it are understandably sparse. He never seems to have had any grand ideas about himself, his talents or the possibilities open to him. He began as journeyman painter, working for toy and papier-mâché manufacturers and then at scene-painting for the theatre. He did venture up to the hub of things, London, in 1804, and achieved a measure of recognition among his peers. But he seems to have continued to make the bulk of his living from teaching, and we know that his charges to private pupils remained very low by the standards of the period, while his charges for his own work were scarcely higher. In any case, he seems not to have liked the noise and bustle of London, and took a teaching job in Hereford in 1814, returning to London only in 1827. This time he stayed for 15 years, interspersed with extensive painting trips, and then in 1841 moved back to Birmingham for the rest of his life.



New focus for a once-hazy image: Cox's Greenwich Hospital, c.1831

anybody. But equally clearly - and this is what distinguishes him from the crush of capable drawing-masters all around - he had from beginning to end of his career an extraordinary faculty of fresh response, of being artistically turned on by a particular kind of scenery, a particular type of weather, and coming up with a painting which stops you in your tracks.

Best of all, I think, are the seaside scenes. Here the obvious comparison is often with Boudin, the Manchester Rhyd Sands, or Birmingham's own larger and more wistful version (it shows more sea, that is to say, rather than being artistically diluted) could easily be Boudin reflecting on Deauville or Trouville. But Cox knows all about a more tempestuous side of seaside life: look, for example, at the large watercolour of Uiverston Sands, with travellers preparing to make the notoriously treacherous crossing and a storm approaching in the mid-distance. Or look at Lancaster Sands of 1844 (one of Cox's own favourites among his works), in which the wayfarers seem to be emerging from nowhere, out of a blaze of light such as Turner might have been proud of.

But the whole show is one of those one-man commemorative jobs which go well beyond piety and give us a new focus for our hitherto hazy image of the artist. Solid and traditional Cox certainly was. Many of his works one might reasonably date fifty years earlier; but then there are always those one might date fifty years later. He deserves more attention than he has usually been given: it just shows what a mistake it generally is to be too influenced, for good or ill, by artists' own valuations of themselves.

In London there is a different kind of commemorative show, but of an artist whose reputation has been similarly influenced by her own too modest estimate of her own importance. Lilian Holt 1898-1983, at the Gillian Jason Gallery in

Television Altogether too modest

Dr Anthony Clare is, literally, the armchair psychiatrist in Motives (BBC, 2), a sort of "Face the Music" in last night's programme, questions about sibling rivalry and power complexes were addressed to John Stonehouse, the famous disappearing Postmaster General. But it is difficult to be convinced of the efficacy of conventional psychological method, especially when it is conducted on a false basis - here it is not a dialogue but a medium of mass entertainment.

Mr Stonehouse seemed unaffected by Dr Clare's admittedly gentle probing - in any case, and hardly likely to give himself

away. But the fact that he answered all of the questions at length and with evident enthusiasm suggested that none of them was particularly incisive. Often the least interesting thing about other people is what they choose to reveal about themselves.

Mr Stonehouse managed to give the impression that his experiences had provoked in him a general disillusionment with the world - "I think people are selfish, callow and greedy". Imprisonment has certainly not encouraged profundity. This general pessimism about the human condition did not seem to include his own, however - now that he has "found"

himself, he has a general air of self-satisfaction. He was often evasive and generally vague, managing to fog the issue by quoting back at his interlocutor some psychological jargon about what had once been his two "personalities". I suspect that Dr Clare knew this was nonsense but could not quite bring himself to say so. His modesty does not augur well for the series; despite its air of psychological enquiry, it seems to be running along the lines of a conventional "chat show". If it is not too late, I suggest that Dr Clare tries hypnotism.

Peter Ackroyd

Theatre Human grab at happiness

Pen Royal Court The lives of the Fenland women in Caryl Churchill's play are as bleak as the terrain, but her writing, sharper and tighter than ever, packs in so much detail and understanding that dreariness itself becomes a tragic drama, filled with all her anger at human waste. Poorly-paid field labour at a time when land prices force farmers to sell out to multinational conglomerates, they inhabit a cut-off province where ghosts are corporeal and primitive superstitions and inhumanities still stalk the present. Flouting of convention like Val's (Jennie Stoller) in leaving her family for a farm worker separated from his wife earns no sympathy just for being a human grab at happiness.

ness is relentlessly shown as an unspoken communal taboo. Losing their respective children and lacking support from friends and family, Val and her lover long for suicide. Val flirts momentarily with a Baptist movement where women, one of whom can remember nothing but suffering, fly from crises in their lives to self-denigration in the embrace of Jesus ("I'd rather take Valium", she mutters at last). Her workmate Angela (Amelda Brown) torments her orphaned stepdaughter (Tricia Kelly) in frightening scenes that are finally linked to ancient outbreaks of seemingly motiveless animal mutilation: cruelty seen as a safer outlet than the chance of love and fulfilment.

Fresh from its New York run, Les Waters's Joint Stock production is in beautiful condition, crucially precise in this elliptical dialogue. For continuity, Annie Smart's design spreads the rich peat of the fields inside a living-room box set; little can be conveyed of the all-important landscape, but the image makes its own point. The cast of six play 22 characters - a grandmother, a great-grandmother, a six-year-old or the harassed generation in between - establishing them completely in their few minutes of stage life. Miss Stoller and Bernard Strohmer make the violent ending both appalling and convincing, and Cecily Hobbs does precisely the same for a macabre family story which, delivered in an unvaryingly placid flow, she makes uproariously funny as well. But (to borrow the style a bit) you all deserved, my sugars, the cheers we gave you on opening night.

Anthony Masters

The Last Judgement Finborough Arms

This English debut by the Chilean author and broadcaster Alfredo Cordal is a gruelling dramatic experience placed at the meeting-point of the cultural and spiritual influences bearing on a political confrontation. A young worker-priest, snatched straight from Mass to the electrodes, truncheons and sexual abuse of an interrogation cell, sees a martyr's sequence of visions that include not only monks offering the comfort of the Cross but Quetzalcoatl and other Indian myth figures. To his torturer, meanwhile, Francisco's crusade for social justice is Marxism in sheep's clothing - when, as he is sarcastically told, the Left must belong on God's left hand with the goats and the damned.

Such niceties of disputation, on both sides (Francisco is a philosophy graduate), mark the interrogation scenes, which are very prolonged and made more harrowing by the staging of the torturer simply as a shadow behind a backlit white sheet while Francisco, flinching continually from unseen blows, collapses into a bloody wreck.

Full-face masks, effectively used for figures like the monks and the hunchback who represents Francisco's boyhood concern with the oppressed, give way to a half-mask for his fur-coated mother, fresh from her charity tea with the rebukes of respectability. Owen Brennan doubles the silhouetted interrogator with industrialist father, materializing derivatively to detail his company's impregnable connexions with capitalist governments worldwide. The church's allegiances waver, as a masked bishop joins Francisco in a joyful tango, then, having cornered the magnate for a matador's kill, ends by escorting him off in a throne.

Anthony Masters

After Bomberg's death Lilian Holt went on to produce some of her finest works, tending, if anything, slightly more towards total abstraction of the (usually landscape) donee. She had an underlying feeling for the hot colours of the Mediterranean, Spain and Cyprus especially; here Ay Christostomos, Cyprus (1948), a prescriptive view from above, manages stunningly to evoke a feeling of place out of a frenzy of yellows and oranges and reds. And the very latest works, studies of building sites in the City, are among the most powerful and individual. When she is lifted out of her husband's shadow, Lilian Holt is well able to stand on her own feet as an artist of more than passing interest.

John Russell Taylor

Advertisement for 'ANOTHER TIME ANOTHER PLACE' featuring 'STARTS THURSDAY GATE BLOOMSBURY' and 'RUNNERS' featuring 'Starring Jane Asher and James Fox'.

SPECTRUM

A mole among the hounds



These pictures were taken by a spy from the League Against Cruel Sports. Hugh Clayton tells the story of the undercover agent on the hunting field

Left: Devon and Cornwall Minkhounds; Marhamchurch, north Cornwall, June 26, 1982. Right: Devon and Somerset Staghounds; Bratton Fleming, north Devon, October 29, 1981. Far right: Three Countries Minkhounds; River Monnow near Pandy, Gwent, July 31, 1982.



A year ago Michael Wright was a keen follower of hounds. With his flat cap, plus fours and British Field Sports Society car sticker, he merged easily into the crowd on the hunting field.

Michael Wright never rode to hounds. His speciality was high quality photography. Some of the hunt members he photographed at meets were flattered to receive pictures of themselves a few weeks later.

Hunting is steadily growing in popularity as a spectator sport, and those who follow hounds on foot or in vehicles outnumber those on horseback by more than 10 to one.

"antis" or "sabs" who demonstrate in the field or try to sabotage the sport by diverting the pack from its quarry. But most of those who mill round the field in the season are foot followers.

He understands them as well, and was able to talk appreciatively to the hunt servants who sometimes feel that their dedicated work with hounds behind the scenes is ignored by those who treat the sport as a social event.

The recent capture by the Soviet authorities of North American Greenpeace campaigners against whaling was a reminder that some animal welfare

activists are not content to wave placards and lobby ministers. In Britain the struggle against supposed animal cruelty occurs at many levels. While Michael Wright was telling his story to The Times, Alan Clark, a parliamentary under secretary at the Department of Employment, was being installed at Westminster as patron of the Conservative Anti-Hunt Council, yet another party-based organization to promote the abolition of hunting.

Political opposition to hunting is relatively recent. The abiding hatred between many champions and opponents of the sport is much older. Each side infiltrates the other. Hunts "acquire" confidential minutes of anti-hunting meetings and opponents like the league have intimate knowledge of hunting strategy conferences.

Michael Wright is one of the most successful "moles" that either side in the hunting argument has ever employed. At the time of his undercover operations, Wright was a full-time employee of the league; each year, part of its income (from subscriptions and

legacies) is set aside for such investigations, although it will divulge neither the extent of the operation nor its cost. He has now left the staff of the league and is retained as a consultant awaiting publication in the autumn of a book about his experiences on the hunting field.

Of course, his name is not really Michael Wright, or even Michael Wilkins, in which guise he occasionally appeared last year as the league's press officer. He will probably be better known to many hunt personalities by his real name of Michael Huskisson.

He has always shunned publicity, but a few years ago he was unable to avoid headline treatment under his real name. He explains that in the mid 1970s there was no noticeable political opposition to hunting. What, then, could a young man do?

"I was involved when I was 22 in the release of two 'smoking beagles' from an ICI laboratory. I appeared in court and was acquitted of theft. Later I was convicted of criminal damage and desecration of the grave of John Peel, and I was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment. There is now a professional political movement to change outdated laws, so I shall dedicate my life to parliamentary reform."

The crushing general election defeat of Labour, with its first manifesto commitment to abolish hunting, was a severe blow to opponents of the sport. The league hopes that Huskisson's book will be the start of a renewed campaign of pressure on parliament to outlaw the pursuit of live prey with hounds.

The huntsmen who stood back to let "Michael Wright" in at the kill with his camera will find themselves in the book. So will the hunt servants who found him such a willing listener. He claims to have a complete dossier of cruelty which will show that hunts tolerate many practices which they claim to ban.

The league was torn in its desire to convince The Times that the Huskisson story was genuine. It produced many photographs, including some of readily recognized personalities in the hunting world. It is worried that the allegations in Huskisson's forthcoming book might be devalued by its author's criminal record.

It refused to show his best photographs, which it hopes to sell for a large amount to a Sunday newspaper. But it showed me a film supposedly taken by him of an incident in a mink hunt less than a year ago. It showed a man picking a small animal from the water and throwing it up to the bank behind where it was seized by hounds. The animal moved for long enough for the camera to record that it was alive.

"I have seen foxes thrown live to two different hunts," Huskisson says. He claims that his book will contain detailed evidence of foxes being sold and of being taken from one hunt's country to another. He says he will produce clear photographic evidence of a fox being let out of a bag in front of hounds and of live quarry being held under water to drown.

He claims that his pictures of stags at bay and quarry being torn apart by hounds will convince the public of the

foulness of normal practice in hunts as well as banned operations like releasing bagged foxes.

Huskisson says he had no qualms about spying on hunts. "I guess I abused the whole trust of hunting. But it is nothing like the abuse of the trust they have with the public. They are conning people all the time." When working under the cover identity of Michael Wright, he followed about 30 of Britain's 200 hunts about 150 times, after many years as a hunt saboteur.

He sometimes worried that the flat cap and plus-fours of "Michael Wright" would not deceive a hunt member who had met him in his previous guise as Huskisson the "sab". He withdrew this year because he feared being caught. Others have been trained to take over when the main hunting seasons open.

"The art of undercover work is to do the expected," he explains. "To get into the inner sanctum and see what happens you need to get their trust. What you want them to do is to behave as they normally do. If you are always helpful, then if the pressure is ever on and you are suspected, the people who have helped you will come forward and say so. That gives you cover."

His greatest fear was of a small mistake that would blow his cover. Each side in the hunting argument knows that the other is spying on it, and is accordingly on its guard. Huskisson deliberately chose an alias with the same first name as his own. "If your real name is not Mike you might not answer if someone in a pub shouts 'Mike' across to you. Then they would know."

He peeled off his British Field Sports Sticker after each day's hunting. After one meet he noticed that he had stuck it back upside down. It was then too late to do anything, but nobody noticed. Huskisson developed a careful ritual to avoid such revealing errors.

"On a typical day I would drive to within about half a mile of the meet and check the car and myself rigorously to make sure there was nothing that could give me away. There were several weak links, including the car, which was owned by the league. But nobody ever challenged me point blank. I targeted myself on the weaker and more stupid elements, and I pushed it as far as I could."

After his careful study of the hunting community he has divided its active participants into nob and rotters. "There is a definite dichotomy," he explains. "There are those who use hunting as a ticket to ride in the countryside. They don't look too closely at what goes on because if they did they might understand what we have been talking about for years. Then there is also an element who are just out-and-out hooligan animal thugs. They are the type who are there just to pit the terrier against the fox."

Understandably reluctant to be photographed, Huskisson then slipped away to a secret address with his memories of hunting. He is in one hideout, while duplicates of his photographs and documents are held in several others. The league hopes to bring them all together in the autumn and, as Huskisson puts it, "drive the final nail into the coffin of hunting."

When the cover was blown

The British Field Sports Society said yesterday that it knew by Christmas last year that Wright, Wilkins and Huskisson were one person. It admitted that there was a period last year in which the hunting community did not know that "Michael Wright" was an infiltrator from the League Against Cruel Sports. The society agreed that "Wright" had been invited by one unknowing hunt to give a slide show of his photographs, but the hunt were unperturbed by his efforts and had not tried to expose him in the field. "The league has been trying for a very long time to prove that the codes of conduct of hunting have not been adhered to. The paucity of the evidence it has shown you proves that it has not succeeded." The society, the main umbrella organization for hunting and shooting interests, said the league might be embarrassed by the disclosure of Huskisson's part in the John Peel case.

moreover... Miles Kington

Facing a blank future

A wonderful thing happened to me the other day. I lost my diary. Now the rest of the year is completely free. My diary, like a super-efficient secretary, had all the details of my life ahead and now that it has skipped the country with my future engagements I find myself a free man.

Dutifully I went into a stationer's to do an availability check on diaries in July. (This is a little phrase I have picked up from showbiz. I'm going to do an availability check on the King's Singers, they say importantly. What they mean is, I'm going to see when they're free. Not much point, really, as the King's Singers are always in Hong Kong or Australia. It would be hard for all six of them to lose their diaries.)

There I discovered that diaries which were selling at £2.90 in January are now down to 40p. Most of them seem aimed at electrical engineers and gun guides. Are these notorious for losing their diaries or for not buying them in the first place? One of life's little mysteries. I also found an exact replica of the diary I had lost, full of addresses of embassies and maps of the theatreland, but containing nothing about what I was meant to do for the rest of the year.

There are also, which came as a surprise to me, mid-year diaries. These run from July of this year to September of next year and are presumably aimed at people like me who have just lost their diaries, or at students who are about to start a new educational year. I suppose these have been here all the time and I just never noticed them, rather as I spotted for the first time the middle of Notting Hill promising to get you to Brighton, Guildford and Southampton. You never notice what you don't need.

Anyway, the mid-year diaries have totally up-to-date details of embassies and theatres, but they have none of my missing details. There is also available a Royal Year Book 1984, starting next January, which contains things like a photograph of Prince Andrew and must be very useful to people who suddenly forget what Prince Andrew looks like, and need to know in a hurry. I had a dinner date with Prince Andrew I would certainly need it, but of course without a diary I simply can't remember whether we agreed to meet this year.

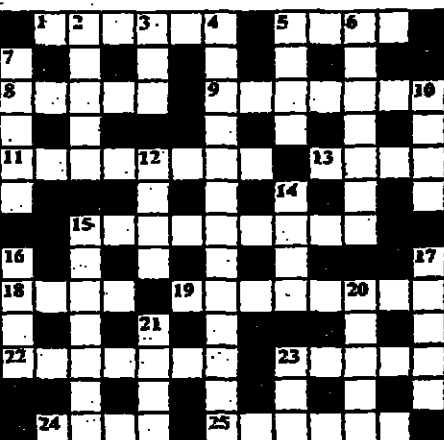
And there were the other kinds of diary, real diaries with nothing but blank pages which you write down what happened to you, how you got on at the electrical engineers' conference, the guide camp, the dinner with Prince Andrew etc. It's odd that the word "diary" has come to have two quite opposite meanings. In one kind you write down the past, in the other you write down the future, and in both cases it's wishful thinking.

In the last decade I have kept a diary for only one year, a year which turned out to be quite traumatic for me. The other day I dared to look through it for the first time and was completely nonplussed to find that I had omitted all the traumas. It was a daily record of what I had done and what other people had done, but there was nothing at all about what I thought. I have now concluded that not only do I not trust other people with my inner feelings (which I suspected already) but I do not trust myself either, which comes as a slight shock. What do I know about myself that I dare not tell myself? And how shall I ever find out?

Well, in the words of a famous writer, "No Englishman ever put anything into an autobiography worth knowing about himself." It was Arthur Conan Doyle, actually, and it's a quotation I have never seen in an English reference book, only in a French dictionary of quotations, and merely placed there because it seemed like an anti-English remark.

You may have noticed a certain loose feeling about this piece, a certain disengagement from life. This is the result of losing my diary. The future has suddenly become free, empty and somewhat meaningless. All the road signs in my life have been removed and I am driving through an unmarked landscape. As I said, it's wonderful. It can't last, of course, but for a while time has become very elastic.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 116)



- ACROSS: 1 Explode (4,2), 2 Cross (3), 3 Crossword (11,5), 4 Conductor's stick (5), 5 Sway (4), 6 Varsity (7), 7 Drowsily (5), 8 Sharp feeling (4), 9 Elongated square (9), 10 Cloth fragments (4), 11 Fine (8), 12 Huntsman's cry (5,2), 13 Tobacco pipe (5), 14 Celebrity (4), 15 Drooped (6). DOWN: 1 Supple (5), 2 Cyst (3), 3 Cowardly (11,3), 4 Sway (4), 5 Weather (7), 6 Gain knowledge (5), 7 Heroic story (4), 8 Type size (4), 9 Stare (4), 10 Ceremonial robes (7), 11 Unruly child (4), 12 Gain knowledge (5), 13 Originate (5), 14 Greek instrument (4), 15 Wet ground (3).

SOLUTION TO No 115: ACROSS: 1 Pussycat 9 Quaker 18 Casso 11 Nib 13 Ode 16 Span 17 Eyelid 18 Age 20 Arms 21 Hubbub 22 Ilex 23 Acre 25 Ted 28 Motor 29 Elixir 30 Menorology. DOWN: 2 Uddid 3 Sht 4 Fern 5 Ouch 6 Escaper 7 Honorarium 8 Cogswest 12 Tilly 14 See 15 Secure 19 Spectre 20 Aba 24 Cing 25 Tree 26 Deat 27 Will

Advertisement for The Sun newspaper. Text: 'THE Sun IS READ BY MORE ABC1 (15-44) MEN THAN ANY OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPER'. Includes a cartoon illustration of a group of men reading the newspaper and a table showing circulation statistics.

50 من الأصل

PARIS FASHIONS by Suzy Menkes

An orgy of opulence

POINTERS



BOWS are the trimming of the season - and the bigger and more glamorous the better. This plunge-back velvet evening dress by Yves Saint Laurent focuses on a bow that grows into a fish-tail skirt. He also produced the bustle bow, swaying on the posterior. Other designers who took a bow were Dior, whose Marc Bohan sashed a slim column of satin with a bow at the hip, and Lanvin, whose asymmetric velvet bodice and slit skirt was tied together with a giant bow at the waist.



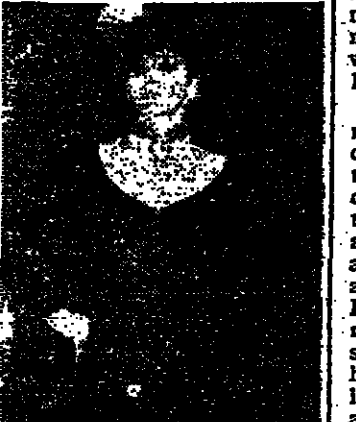
YVES SAINT LAURENT



CHANEL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HARRY KERR

EMBROIDERIES so lavish that it was hard to believe they were the work of the needle was a Paris theme. Dior's cabled evening sweater (above) was actually worked in guided embroidery on black chiffon. Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel used eighteenth-century furniture as the inspiration for his encrustations of mother of pearl (below), worked in swirls of white on white, with pale silvered beads, gold leaf and arabesque appliqués.



LACE is back in favour with all the couturiers - especially wicked black lace used with black velvet like this transparent dress by Ungaro banded with velvet at bust and hips. Major designer names from couture and ready to wear gave a small show at the Musée de la Mode et du Costume to coincide with the private view of the museum's latest exhibition of lace through the ages.

The fresh froth of white lace from the fine Chantilly to the coarser Irish crochet lace made the strongest statements in the exhibition, which included some enchanting children's clothes - both simple in white and lavish in silver or gilt tinsbrody.

The 100 dresses and 300 lace pieces assembled at the museum by the keeper, Madeleine Delpierré, made up just one of the biannual fashion exhibitions. (The last one was cashmere shawls.) Since change is the essence of fashion, I am convinced that this kind of exhibition better serves the museum public than a static display. The mannequins are not behind glass, but simply grouped against a quiet background, with a group of wedding dresses with exquisite lace veils and another tableau of Edwardian and 1920s figures emphasizing how a fabric can change its style according to fashion. The idea of having a live show of lace garments brought the message right up to date.

Paris couture is luxuriating in a success that has stunned even its creators. Sales have risen over the last year by a staggering 40 per cent. Among the major designer names sales are up by as much as 60 per cent and there is confident talk of a doubling of private clients by 1985.

The result in Paris last week was an almost indecent orgy of opulence - shimmering satin or luxurious deep pile velvets, encrustations of embroidery, lavish trappings on so-called simple suits and furs like sable and ermine dripping from the model at Chanel as surely as we mortals in the audience dripped with sweat in temperatures of 120 degrees.

With the money has come a new-found youthful zip and confidence. Skirts slashed to the thigh, dresses caressing the curves of the body and provocative marriages of sheer chiffon and liquorice black velvet appeared on Monday morning at the discreet House of Balmain. Yves Saint Laurent's man-tailoring has never looked so gentle or so seductive as in his hourglass sheaths of panned lamé. Everything was wrapped and draped to the figure at Ungaro. And the House of Chanel, which has for the last decade been disguising the figure faults of the bourgeoisie, has rediscovered the female body with its new designer Karl Lagerfeld.

Who is this glamorous new customer for couture? Monsieur Jacques Moudier, president of the Fédération Française de la Couture, points to an important increase in American clients, due partly to the strength of the dollar against the Franc. South Americans, and particularly chic Brazilian ladies, are also an increasing percentage of couture sales, along with Greeks and, more surprisingly, Germans. But the really big spenders are, of course, what the French discreetly describe as the "petrodollar market".

The Arabs, whose dazzling white robes have transformed the sunbaked cafes of the Champs Elysees into a kind of Abu Dhabi-sur-mer, are the hidden factor behind the renaissance of haute couture. Their search for sophisticated and conspicuously glamorous clothes has tuned into the new fashion mood for dressing up. The Couturiers, who were ill at ease with the ethnic extravaganzas of the 1970s, have gone back to the first principles of cut and chic. Yves Saint Laurent admitted that his glamorous hobble sheath banded at the knees with a swathe of his new "Paris pink" was a reworking of a dress he made originally for the



BALMAIN

YVES SAINT LAURENT Dramatic domino cloak in egg-yolk yellow faille worn over a black velvet hourglass sheath with black beaded lace on the bodice. Bejeweled bracelets and earrings.

CHANEL Karl Lagerfeld's reinterpretation of the Chanel cardigan jacket. Dress and cardigan in shimmering black panned velvet with



UNGARO

house of Dior. Balenciaga was the name on the lips of fashion pundits both at Saint Laurent and at Givenchy, which showed a puff skirt in white faille below a black velvet bodice that was pure 1950.

But the feeling in Paris was not of another bout of "terro" dressing as the French call a nostalgia for the past. It was rather that Paris is showing some important pointers for the future.

Yves Saint Laurent relaunched the chemise, just one of several designers whose fame came with separates but who now believes in the dress. Saint Laurent is still making his tailored suits, but these were rather subdued, the newest a collarless long tunic over a slim skirt. (The collarless coat and jacket is another strong trend.)

The suit did appear at Dior, where designer Marc Bohan produced a choice of three jackets: the long, fitted, military-saharienne with four patch pockets and the parka. Of the three (all shown with slim skirts) the parka had most conviction, especially when made in rich black velvet, scarlet taffeta or raspberry pink pigskin trimmed with black sable.

diagonal tweed, or with a surface of creamy puff balls as light as cotton wool. Although much of the Paris palette is grey or black, Lagerfeld produced stunning tweeds from tomato red, to cyclamen to fondant pink, often mixing shades of red.

Pink was the colour of the season at Saint Laurent. Elsewhere it was cobalt blue, used with black or Jean-Louis Scherrer's black and red and Givenchy's black and white. Animal prints, as luxuriously made as possible, appeared as prints on leather at Scherrer, as lavish bead embroidery in gold and bronze on a tunic blouson at Saint Laurent.

Ungaro's strong collection was based on an asymmetric cut, using velvet to face the single rever of a collarless coat, to slash across the body or hips of a silk-faconné dress, or in some cases, to hold the modesty of the wearer together inside a transparent sheath of lace. Ungaro has softened his cut to produce gently swathed dress ruffled sexily across the body.

multi-coloured embroideries. The famous Chanel chains.

BALMAIN The shimmer and shine of panned velvet appliqued in a swirling pattern of brick red and blue on a black wool coat. Worn over a silk-skirt black ciré dress.

UNGARO The Paris silhouette: wide shoulders narrowing to a slim skirt. This satin crepe dress with velvet hem and asymmetric velvet bodice. Parisienne cocktail hat.

DIOR The slim chemise, the important Paris dress shape. In houndstooth check printed crepe faconné, unbuttoned at the front.

J-L SCHERRER The fad for animal prints. This leather jacket printed to look like giraffe skin. Worn over a slim dress with beige and black print.



DIOR

Both Lanvin and Cardin tried a different angle. At Lanvin, designer Jules-Francois Crayah used the kimono shape as his inspiration, which made for a less fitted silhouette, although it went with slim skirts.

Pierre Cardin designs clothes for when the space invaders inherit the earth. His coats are a mastery of cut, with wings of fabric growing out of the shoulders of a tweed suit or petals of black leather unfolding from a sleeve seam. In a season when other designers were drawing simple lines but showing them in magnificent fabrics, these fancy effects looked out of line.

With a few poetic lines in the style of his favourite Proust, with the help of a thousand roses and as many friends, the shy and retiring Yves Saint Laurent launched his new perfume last week.

The blonde and porcelain-skinned actress Catherine Deneuve - the nearest you can find in France to an English rose - was the star guest. She accompanied a surprisingly extrovert and smiling Yves around a tour of the assembled throng, which included a lavish display of his new "Paris pink" rose bushes banking the cool pool in its hot courtyard.

This is the first fragrance that Charles of the Ritz has launched for Saint Laurent since he upset the American establishment (and wowed his American customers) with his heady "Optim". The louche world of the Left Bank was suggested by his earlier "Rive Gauche".

The new one is called



"Paris" and smells of roses (although that stifling city last week smelt rather more of drains). This is an extract from Saint Laurent's words that accompany a series of pictures of the sights of Paris (which include empty café chairs, the Horses of Marly, the Eiffel Tower, and a lady dressed by YSL): "From pale pink the rose turns to red.

Blood red. The colour of tragedy punctuated by the spikes of gates and the obelisks of greenery neatly aligned. "Paris that sheds its petals at the mercy of the sails of the Moulin Rouge." I am sure it sounds marvellous in French. And a rose in any language smells as sweet.

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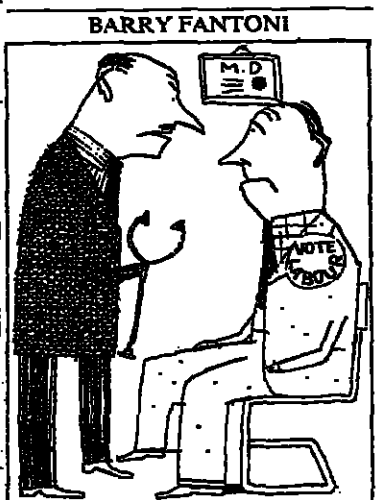
THE TIMES DIARY

House grouse

Kingman Brewster, the former American ambassador to London, is returning here on a two year posting in his private profession as lawyer.

Just capital

Jobs for premature graduates of the TV-am school of hard knocks being at a premium, I was invited yesterday to watch Angela Rippon start hers - as holiday relief for Michael Aspel on Capital Radio.



A depression like yours could last anything up to four years'

Pickwick revisited

Samuel Pickwick, you may remember, was author of Speculations on the Source of Hampstead Pond, with Some Observations on the Theory of Titlilabats.

TV-am was enlivening its transmissions last week with broadcasts from Blackpool featuring performing animals on the beach.

At the cross roads

Religion is on the road in Britain once more. Gypsy families yesterday left the first international evangelical meeting of Romanies held in this country since the war.

Worming its way

Down Your Way went to Chatham at the weekend and chatted to one of the locals, Johnny Magoo, the one-man band.

Nye memorial

Readers who were moved, as I was, to read the tragically prophetic leader written for the Bank of England staff magazine by its editor, David Nye, shortly before he and all his family died in the Scilly Isles helicopter disaster.

This chap may look familiar, not to say over-familiar. It is only a fortnight since I exposed the fact that he needed cleaning up a bit.

PHS

Henry Kissinger, back in harness guiding US policy on Central America, recently took part in a wide-ranging debate with Raymond Aron, a leading French expert on international affairs. These were the main points

Get the Pershings in place, then talks may succeed

ARON: One reads often in newspapers that détente is over and that a new phase of the cold war has started. There is no doubt that the atmosphere between the United States and the Soviet Union has changed.

When you were Secretary of State, you said on a number of occasions that in order to contain the Soviet Union it was good to tie its hands with a series of accords or negotiations.

I would like to raise an objection to your relative optimism. The Soviet economy is inefficient. The population's living standard, far from rising, tends to decline.

Damage caused by the riot at Albany prison, Isle of Wight, in May will cost £1m to repair. In a 12-minute clash at Wormwood Scrubs, London, in June, 25 officers and six prisoners were injured.

Two of the three sieges at Wormwood Scrubs this year involved the sentence inmates in D Wing which contains some of the most dangerous men in the system.

It is now widely accepted that the dispersal system does not work. It came into being in somewhat dubious circumstances as an alternative to a scheme put forward by Lord Mountbatten in the mid-1960s to house all top security inmates in a prison specially built for the purpose on the Isle of Wight.

This concern centres on the future of seven prisons in the dispersal system: Albany and Parkhurst, also on the Isle of Wight; Wormwood Scrubs; Gartree (in Leicestershire); Long Lartin (Worcestershire) and Wakefield (Yorkshire).

increasing its military spending at an annual rate of 3.4 to 5 per cent, and this enormous power, both nuclear and conventional, surpasses by far its defence needs.

In an historical perspective, I don't think the Soviet Union can compete with the West, especially if the latter shows its determination. I do not say that the Soviet Union will necessarily change.

The battle is no longer a strategic or military one. It is political or moral. Will one convince European public opinion that this deployment is necessary?

Mr Uzzell comments in a dissertation for an academic degree: "The Prison Service itself was being manipulated, deceived, assaulted and nobody appeared to be defending it."

When I put Mr Uzzell's charges to Mr Abse, he replied: "That is extravagant. They were deliberate ploys which were laid to deal with the irrationality of the wider community on penal matters, and I am unrepentant."

exercise strict control over the top security prisoners held there, officers were locking them up for 14 hours a day. There was a serious riot in 1972; another in 1978.

The blame for much of the unrest is being put on recommendations by a sub-committee of the Advisory Council on the Penal System which was invited by Mr James Callaghan, then Home Secretary, to have a second look at the problem of high-risk prisoners after Lord Mountbatten drew up his scheme.

The United States and prevent the Soviet Union from believing the opposite. The one and the other are inseparable. The Europeans must understand that the Soviet proposals have a single objective: maintaining their nuclear force pointed at Europe, and preventing America from coming to help Europe.

When the Soviet Union had 75 of the SS20s and we had none, the Soviets said: there is a balance of power and everything is all right. When they had 110 of them, they said: military balance. Now, they have 353 of them, the more they say there is a balance of power which will not let us be upset.

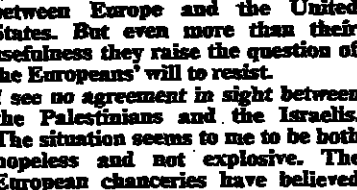
Mr Abse said he acquitted any of the other members of the sub-committee of being involved in what was an individual political tactic, "which was necessary if we were to have the penal system from the military absurdities of Mountbatten."

Today prison officers speak of the way tough prisoners prey upon the lesser fry among whom they are dispersed. Mr Colin Steel, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, tells how drug "barons" are able to direct addicts dependent on them to do their dirty work of smashing up cells, beating up other prisoners who offend or oppose the regime, and generally disrupting the prison regime.

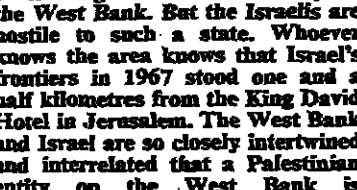
Already the prison service has quietly put the Abse plan into reverse. Top-ranking IRA men are being held in special security wings at two prisons with no more than 20 to each, according to a prison department source.

Governors and other senior officials who met in June to discuss the dispersal system came up with two main ideas for reform. One is that prisoners should come only gradually to the release regime which characterizes present dispersal prisons: they should earn their passage there by good behaviour in stricter prisons first.

But too many prisoners now have too much freedom to exert their disruptive power inside the dispersal system.



Kissinger: warning



Aron: unconvinced

between Europe and the United States. But even more than their usefulness they raise the question of the Europeans' will to resist. I see no agreement in sight between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The situation seems to me to be both hopeless and not explosive.

There are two problems in the Middle East. Raymond Aron recalled the first one. There is also the problem of the Gulf, of Iran and Iraq. In a certain way, these two questions are related.

This situation is not desirable, but it is not explosive. What worries me much more is the Gulf region. I fear the discussions of Opec on the price of oil is not inspired only by economic arguments, but that it has a political dimension and is part of Iran's drive to destabilize the moderate governments of the Gulf.

©New York Times News Service.

Roger Scruton

Pros and conned on the campus

In the current issue of The Free Nation, the redoubtable Cox and Marks draw attention to an interesting abuse of public funds. Student unions are funded directly by local authorities, who are obliged to pay the subscription for every student, as a mandatory part of his educational grant.

Cox and Marks have studied the students' union at North London Polytechnic. They have discovered that, out of an annual budget for 1982-3 of £180,000, the amount spent in supporting non-political activities of the kind I have mentioned was just £20,000.

The existence of the "sabbatical officers" provides a valuable opportunity to political activists, and, as Cox and Marks show, the opportunity is taken. Sit-ins and protests form a large part of the union agenda, and its publications and announcements lead themselves monotonously to the posturing of the radical left.

The student union is nominally a democratic organization. But for all practical purposes its decisions are controlled by the professionals, who have time enough to sit through meetings, to delay and filibuster, and to indulge in the familiar tactics whereby Leninists undermine the workings of the "bourgeois democracy" which they so despise.

My own inquiries suggest that the political hijacking has occurred at North London Polytechnic has not occurred everywhere, nor is it normal for "sabbatical officers" to be elected for more than one year. However, politicization of student

unions is well organized and effective. And it has an interesting precedent. In his book Sabres and Brown-shirts, documenting the Nazis' rise to power, Michael Steimberg described similar techniques. The most important move in manipulating German student opinion was the appointment of full time activists, recruited from the student body, and paid from party funds on condition that they gave their time completely to Nazi agitation.

The Nazis were surely right. If there is to be serious political organization on the campus, it must be undertaken by professionals. The position of "sabbatical officers" provides a point of control which may be used to override the innocence of student politics and to abolish the open debate and social rivalry which are natural to adolescent opinion, so generating an appearance of active unity. It is thereby possible to impose the "control from above" which is the first move in the technique which Lenin called democratic centralism and which Hitler called Gleichschaltung, the technique of destroying opposition.

The existence of these professionals may therefore conflict with the principle of a students' union. Such a union exists to encourage the voluntary associations through which students complete their formal education. It exists not to command but to obey, and to obey first of all the spontaneous wishes of the student body.

A good illustration of the attitude of the student unions is provided by the history of Campus, a satirical magazine launched by students at Aberdeen University in 1978 and intended to poke fun at the tedious leftism of the "official" student paper. It received no funds from the students' union, but - unlike the paper funded by the union - it was at once able to support itself. Since March this year, it has been published nationally, and campaigns vigorously against the politicization of the students' union and against the rule requiring compulsory union membership.

Already the student unions in half a dozen universities have tried to ban the magazine. That is why people who have advertised in Campus have received letters demanding that they boycott its pages. Let us hope that the student unions will not be allowed to crush this enterprise, and that Campus will succeed in its campaign to make membership of the union voluntary. Those wishing to support the venture should write to Campus Publications, BCM Campus, London WC1N 3XX.

The author is editor of The Salisbury Review.

David Hart

Whose countryside is it anyway?

Political lobbies are similar to addictive drugs: they continue to exert great influence long after the pleasure they give has passed. Many lobbies remain powerful persuaders of political minds even though they no longer serve either the national interest or the interest of those they were founded to promote.

The farming lobby has great influence. Is its influence benign? If not, will it, too, now be challenged? For most country dwellers, there will be no thanksgiving this harvest. They have been getting stuck during the winter in snowdrifts because farmers have removed hedges. They have been deafened by bird-scaring and drying engines. Their gardens have sometimes been destroyed by chemicals. The poppies, the cornflowers, the marigolds, the orchids that used to delight their eyes have declined or disappeared, as have the owls and the falcons, the partridges and hares. The small mammals have been replaced by huge machines and the small fields by vast prairies. Houses are filled with small black smuts from stubble burning. Glorious trees are uprooted, vast buildings erected.

To CAP it all (pun intended), we are paying our farmers huge subsidies to produce food at far greater cost than need be. Such subsidies apart from increasing farmers' personal incomes so that they can buy new tractors (most of them manufactured abroad), new combine harvesters (all of them manufactured abroad), bigger sprayers and wider fertilizer drills, encourage unwanted mountains are eventually sold at ridiculously low prices to non-EEC countries such as Russia, who spend their money on other things, like guns and missiles pointed at us.

Making a relationship with nature is essential to our spiritual well-being and our material existence. A wilderness is a vital source of spiritual refreshment. A wilderness is not a desert, it is a place that is uncultivated and inhabited by wild animals.

In Britain, apart from the Highlands and wilder hills, certain coastlines, moorland and some marshes, the countryside has its own small, local wildernesses. A pond is a kind of wilderness, so is a hedge, a self-sown copse, a roadside verge and a heathland. That is why people flock to the country at weekends and for holidays. They make their peace with nature in these wildernesses. But the farmer is destroying them at an alarming rate, encouraged by government subsidy. Soon, the British landscape and its wildlife will live only in the nature films stored in television company archives.

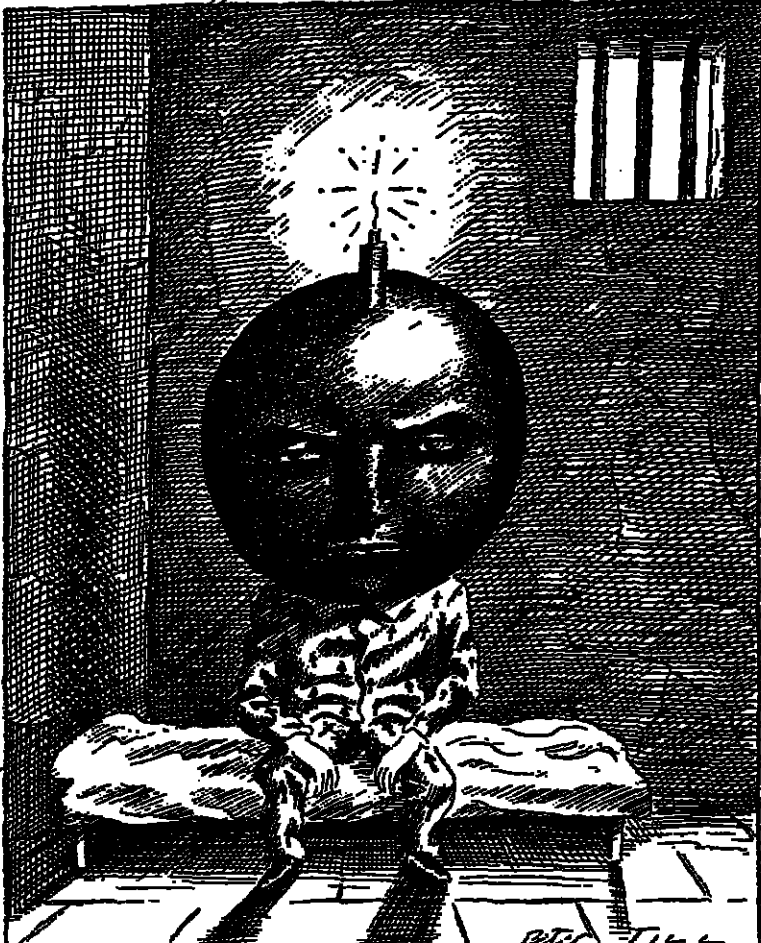
If these criticisms seem soft, here are some hard ones. Last year, farmers' incomes rose by 45 per cent. The year before farmers' incomes rose by 24 per cent. Last year farmers received subsidies amounting to £1,333 billion, at least, of which £333m came from the UK Exchequer. Farmers also enjoyed considerable tax advantages and farm land is not rated.

Farmers do produce more grain per man each year but they produce far less income per pound of capital employed than most other businesses. When the value of land is taken into account and a proper charge made for it, say 12 per cent (the current average yield on long-landed gilt), the true return on capital is negative. Only the very rich can seriously contemplate buying land to farm.

How powerful is the farming lobby? Consider these figures: The National Trust for England has 1,140,000 members, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has nearly 500,000 and there are many other smaller conservationist groups and bodies, including the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the Ramblers Association. At least three million people are anglers and innumerable others spend time in the countryside for recreation. Against these, the National Farmers Union has fewer than 140,000 members, and the total number engaged in farming is 633,000.

The farming lobby has managed to blur the vision of most politicians for many years. Its influence is a habit they should now try to kick.

The author is a novelist and political adviser.



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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

TIED HAND AND FOOT

Yesterday an exotic word, long unspoken, was heard in the precincts of the Department of the Environment: revaluation. This was revaluation neither of currency nor benefits, but adjustment to that most arcane but increasingly onerous household arithmetic, the assessment of ratable values for the purposes of council rates. The word meant one thing: rates are here to stay. When Mrs Thatcher came to office, revaluation, long overdue, was shelved; had not the government promised wholesale rates reform? Now, we are assured, rates are a permanent fixture of the fiscal landscape. Non-domestic property is to be revalued; the rates white paper drops a broad hint that revaluation of domestic property is to follow. For the modicum of justice among ratepayers that would achieve, thanks are due.

Not only is there no consensus on an alternative to the rates; the Government finds the proceeds of commercial and industrial rates too lucrative to permit tampering with them beyond some small scale (and welcome) changes on the timing of rates bills and empty factories. It is admitted that the string of complex measures introduced since 1979 to disburse grants have failed in their central purpose - to give the government control of current council spending, but the white paper has a scapegoat: the sixteen, or is it a dozen, or is it twenty Labour city authorities which during 1983-84 account for the bulk of the "overspend."

The white paper has a missing term. Instead of explaining why

local spending and staffing continue to rise, and why the electoral mechanism apparently fails to operate - admittedly a complex business involving the way local bureaucracy operates, how municipal salaries are determined, the attachment of teachers and parents to existing levels of spending despite falling school rolls - the white paper insinuates that identifying and controlling the scapegoat councils is enough.

To be sure, it is difficult to feel much sympathy for the councilors of Islington, Southwark or Lambeth; sympathy instead for their long-suffering (and still remarkably quiescent) ratepayers. But the problems of London local government are all to do with the access by extremist Labour councils to the munificence of the commercial rate, the reform of which has now been abandoned. Eight of the other likely scapegoats are shortly to be abolished.

The white paper invites doubt practical, political and principled. Despite the width of the powers Mr Jenkin is to be awarded he may yet have difficulty in singling out his small number of offenders; much depends on whether future years' spending shows the same kind of bunching among Labour authorities, which despite Central Office are not all part of a giant socialist conspiracy. The government is promising in effect that within two years there will be little or no divergence between council budgets and its overall financial plan: delivering hundreds of millions of pounds

worth of cuts (and they will have to be real this time) within that timetable will surely cause major disruption.

Worse - and here is anxiety for every genuine parliamentarian - in a year or so's time Mr Jenkin will be asking MPs to pore over council budgets. If MPs' performance both individual and in committee in controlling the outlays of central government were impeccable there would be grounds for hoping their examination of local budgets could be useful. As it is, Mr Jenkin could clog the Parliamentary timetable without getting much sense on local spending.

Is central government fit to undertake the detailed scrutiny of council spending in an era when even a government committed to the reduction of public outlays finds it difficult enough to keep a watchful eye on its own programmes? Trailing the details of Lambeth council's finances through the House of Commons is one thing; but how many civil service hours are to be spent both before and after in horse trading and letter-writing?

Government is over-loaded and Mr Jenkin's "selective scheme" for controlling the rates of a few councils will make one department list even further. The possibility envisaged in the white paper of the Department of the Environment's taking responsibility for the rates of more than 400 councils through the "reserve powers" ought to terrify anyone concerned not only with government's size but also its competence.

EVERYONE STILL TALKING

The talks which the United States' special envoy Richard Stone is holding with Salvadoran guerrillas and Sandinista leaders give some grounds for hope that a peaceful solution may be found to the developing crisis in Central America. But for those who believe that political power is to be gained and retained by armed force rather than through the electoral process, willingness to talk may be perceived as weakness unless it is firmly backed not only by a show of military strength, but also by evidence that the political will exists to apply it when all other alternatives have failed.

Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, was right to express "guarded optimism" that negotiations could be successful even if the results of the Panama peace talks were disappointing. The nine Latin American foreign ministers have agreed to meet again later this month to continue their efforts at reaching some reconciliation of the conflict between Nicaragua and its neighbours. It is clearly in the interests of the Contadora countries - Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela - and of the peoples of Central America, to find a way of ending military involvement from outside the region. The fight against poverty is difficult enough without wasting resources on further tragic bloodshed.

The aims of the Cuban leader Fidel Castro are less plain. It is not Washington's bellicosity, but justifiable caution which makes the Reagan Administration reluctant to accept at face value Dr Castro's offer to withdraw

Cuban military advisers from Nicaragua in return for United States withdrawal of support for El Salvador and Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries. Despite President Reagan's expressed willingness to give him the benefit of the doubt, the possibilities for verifying the Cuban leader's fulfilment of his pledge would be strictly limited. A military adviser can quickly be classified as a civil engineer or logistics expert; indeed, the discrepancy between the two hundred Cuban military advisers acknowledged by Havana to be in Nicaragua and the two thousand claimed to be there by Washington, suggests that considerable disguising of Cuba's military involvement has already occurred.

Nor is the scale of Soviet involvement known. The number of Soviet advisers is certainly much smaller than the number of Cubans; but Cubans, East Germans, Bulgarians and other allies of the USSR do not play an independent role. They are in Central America with Moscow's approval, and military support for the Nicaraguan regime and for leftist guerrillas in El Salvador will continue even after the signing of agreements unless verification can be ensured.

Despite denials, the Soviet vessels in Nicaraguan ports have certainly been unloading cargoes more dangerous than grain. In the USSR, Cuba and Nicaragua the governments have no legitimacy other than revolution. A change of regime was indeed necessary in all three countries, but political development through elections is not now a possibility in any of them.

A peaceful Central America would look to the United States, not the USSR, for economic aid and development. Even now the USA is selling the Soviet Union surplus grain, making possible Moscow's shipments to Nicaragua. An end to conflict would greatly reduce Soviet influence. Significantly, in reporting events in Central America, two Moscow publications used the same photograph with very contradictory captions. *Novoe Vremya* said it showed "US-armed Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries" while *Krasnaya Zvezda* claimed they were "Nicaraguan border guards". For Moscow establishing the facts about the conflict in order to negotiate peace is less important than exploiting the genuine grievances of the inhabitants to spread revolution, provide problems for Washington, and distract world attention from Afghanistan and Poland.

President Reagan's strategy in Central America is subjected to constant scrutiny and criticism both in Congress and in the media. This is one of the vital strengths of democracy, but it can seem a weakness to those who have no respect for democratic rights in their own countries. It is not enough to support anti-Marxist forces; the USA must be seen to be backing those who offer an improvement on preceding regimes. The difficult balance which the Reagan Administration is trying to maintain between the demonstration of military strength and willingness to negotiate deserves more sympathetic assessment both in the United States and in Western Europe.

KEEPING IT FROM THE MEMBERS

The fact that Mr Neil Kinnock can already regard himself as the next Labour leader is the most vivid proof we have yet had of the rot at the heart of the party. This is not because he is the candidate of the left who is likely to take Labour in a direction which will lead to further disintegration and probably another electoral defeat. Nor is it simply that Mr Kinnock lacks the calibre, political maturity and intellect of Mr Peter Shore whose qualities have earned him a defeat as assured as Mr Kinnock's victory.

What is essentially wrong is that Mr Kinnock is enjoying the assurance of victory that is only possible for the beneficiary of an undemocratic and thoroughly bad system of election. Mr Kinnock knows he will win because victory is guaranteed by the caucus votes of the unions and of the constituency parties. There is little possibility of surprise; no serious chance that the outcome can be affected by the course of the candidates' arguments or the evolving ideas of the electors in response to what the candidates say. The reason is that a very few have the power to commit the votes of millions without the least regard to the opinions of those they purport to represent.

The ostensible case for depriving Labour MPs of the exclusive

right to elect the leader was that the change would promote party democracy. What party democracy means is very much a matter of opinion. It could be taken to mean giving some genuine weight to the rank-and-file membership of a party. To those who do not want to weaken the parliamentary tradition by which the Prime Minister should, always, and only, be someone able to command a majority in the House of Commons, this is not an appealing argument. Even so, a genuinely wider party electorate is an honourable concept and one which is commonly accepted outside Britain. It is also practised here by both the Liberals and the Social Democrats.

But the Labour system of election is inspired by the conviction that party democracy consists in the opinions and wishes of those who control the party machine, which is something that the left is confident of its ability to do. Labour's method is the choice of a leader by an electoral arrangement in which the unions have 40 per cent of the voting strength and the Parliamentary Labour Party and the constituency parties 30 per cent each.

Some of the union executives are "consulting" their branches, which means whatever they want it to mean. NUPE (the

public service employees) is going so far as holding a vote of the branches, but it is common knowledge that few union members attend branch meetings. Other decisions are taken by the union conference or by executive decision. In no case is there a ballot of the millions in whose name the votes are cast, for the system does not require one.

If the unions balloted their members, and if constituency parties held "primaries" of their paid-up members we should have no certain information now whether Mr Kinnock, Mr Hattersley or Mr Shore would be the winner (though we could be fairly confident by inspired guessing that it would not be Mr Heffer). There would, however, be more reason to believe that their best man might be chosen. Mr Shore is a man of deep convictions, independent thinking and what is probably more to the point in this particular context, an ability to communicate his convictions to a wide audience.

So, by courtesy of the union executives Labour will presumably be led by Mr Kinnock. It is hard not to utter a small cheer for the EETPU (electricians) contemptuous decision not to use the system of which they disapprove. As for Mr Kinnock, the prize he will win may well be devalued by its being delivered into his hands in such a manner.

Criminal evidence for both sides

From the Minister of State, Home Office

Sir, Commenting on an answer given by my predecessor as Minister of State to a question in Parliament, Sir David Napley (July 20) says it is not correct that the results of examinations of specimens carried out by Home Office forensic scientists are made available to both sides in a criminal case.

The basic Home Office circular to the police states that "the recognized principle is that the results of any examination by a forensic science laboratory should be made available to the defence where such results may have any bearing on the case". There are established procedures for giving effect to this principle.

If a case is to be tried summarily, or there is to be a committal hearing before justices, then the results of any examination which the prosecution proposes to use in evidence should be supplied to the defence before they are tendered in court. Otherwise, they are given to the defence following committal. The principle also applies to material which is not going to be used by the prosecution, but which may have some bearing on the case.

The Attorney General last year issued guidelines requiring the disclosure of such material in cases to be tried on indictment. The Director of Public Prosecutions ensures compliance with these procedures where he undertakes the prosecution; and I have no ground for supposing that they are not being followed in other cases.

Sir David Napley goes on to say that if a laboratory has expressed an opinion on specimens submitted by the police none of its experts is permitted to assist the defence. This is not so. If the defence require additional examinations by the original expert (including examinations of additional specimens), or further points to be taken into consideration, there is no bar on this. Neither is there any objection to the submission of items to another Home Office scientist working in a different field of expertise. Should the defence decide to employ the services of an outside forensic expert then the facilities of the Home Office laboratory are available to him.

If a specimen has been examined by one Home Office scientist it is not the practice to allow this specimen to be submitted to another Home Office scientist working in the same discipline. This seems entirely reasonable.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HURD,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
July 29.

US change of course on Cuba proposed

From Professor J. R. Pole

Sir, President Reagan is seeking advice about Central America. It is a sign of the difficulties facing the United States that the deep discussion which afflicted the nation over Vietnam can already be observed well in advance of any such involvement in the present struggle. But that involvement has already begun. And it has begun because there are so many levels of business, politics and strategy at which it has already existed for generations.

Close engagement sometimes makes accurate observation more difficult. The suggestion I want to offer is not out of keeping with the precedents, if not the traditions, of American politics, though it is unlikely to occur spontaneously to the Reagan Administration.

The suggestion is a complete change of course towards Cuba. The damaging economic difficulties experienced by the Cuban people in their daily lives are formidable proof of the power of the American boycott. But the boycott, and the sustained enmity of the United States, also help to fuel the fervour with which Castro strives to export the Cuban revolution (a revolution which once had many American sympathisers).

I venture to suggest that the most effective means of taking the fuel out of that movement would be to make peace with Castro's Cuba, establish normal diplomatic and commercial links, and to restore the tourist traffic and the artistic and intellectual connections which have historically existed between the two countries.

At present the United States, which committed itself to non-intervention as its contribution to ending the missile crisis in 1962, can do nothing more to exert pressure than it has done and is doing. A friendly Cuba might have to wait for another generation. But once a start was made, the two peoples would take a great deal of the initiative towards reconciliation into their own hands.

Slave ownership in London

From Mrs O. C. Paynton

Sir, Colonel Patrick Montgomery (July 30) raises a difficult problem which does exist in this country and one which requires considerable care in handling if conditions for the "slave" are not to be made worse.

A few years ago an Arab woman, aged about 40, appeared in our local court on a charge of shoplifting. The value of the goods was only a few pounds and the items involved were personal female things, sweets and fruit.

As it was her third charge and the items in each case were similar, enquiries were made which revealed that the woman was an orphan who at the age of 14 had been, "as is customary in her country", given by the King to her employer's family and had worked for that family ever since.

Her working hours and conditions seemed excessive by our standards. She had been brought to England by her employer when he was posted here as a diplomat. She received no pay, but her employer stated that she was treated as "a member of the family" and received a present at Ramadan - a sum of between £25 and £50.

Reporting such a case could have made conditions far worse for her. Without her "family" here she would have been lost, and had she been sent back by her employer, or deported, her plight as a "disgraced slave" could have been very difficult, especially as in her country there are severe penalties for theft, including the amputation of hands.

Perhaps help should be given earlier and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, article 1, should be strengthened to ensure that the pay and conditions of all their staff, including domestic, are no less favourable than for similar work in the host country. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
OLIVE PAYNTON,
6 Eldon Grove, NW3,
August 1.

Laker litigation

From Mr Peter V. Ind

Sir, The true function of a court in any land is to establish justice. For a court to overrule, or attempt to overrule, the power of a foreign court to establish justice in its own land is a serious breach of international law. Surely the crucial factor is to determine whether or not conspiracy by airlines and others against Laker actually occurred. The action of the Court of Appeal (Law Report, July 27) can only raise suspicions of a cover-up.

Historically, the British legal system has become an example of justice at its best, but there has been for some years a growing cynicism regarding our court procedure and justice. Surely the most diplomatic and in the long run the wisest action would have been to allow the American judiciary to establish justice in this case.

During the last 25 years we have experienced, throughout the Western world particularly, a great erosion of freedom caused by terrorism. To succumb to expediency in judicial matters can only further erode what faith remains in democratic processes.

Yours faithfully,
PETER V. IND,
207, Aynard Park Road,
Tottenham,
Middlesex,
July 27.

Detained in Angola

From Mr David Ginsburg

Sir, May I remind you of the seven British detainees currently in prison in Angola? One of these, Colin Evans, was a constituent of mine for the whole of my 23 years in Parliament. He and his companions were sentenced in 1976 to between 16 and 30 years' imprisonment, and they still have between nine and 23 years to serve.

Whatever rights and wrongs of their conviction as mercenaries the fact remains that if there is no commutation of their sentences some of them may never see their parents and homes again.

United States prisoners in a similar situation have been exchanged and have left Angola. When Señor Jorge, the Angolan Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Britain this February he expressed the hope, both in public and privately, that his President would exercise clemency in the course of this year. Though the year still has some months to run there are no signs of any significant movement.

It is easy to criticize the Foreign Office in matters of this kind; still, it would not be unfair to suggest that I have gained an impression of irresoluteness in their approach over the years. Are they unwilling to stake out their position for fear of offending the Angolans?

If we were really making progress towards an early release this might not matter, but unhappily I see no such signs. Even the improvement in the atmosphere over Namibia has not inspired a major change in the

climate and our unhappy compatriots' plight remains unaltered.

While I was in the House of Commons I (and others) did what we could for the prisoners. Now we have a new Foreign Secretary, the sixth in seven years. Is this not the right time for him to review the problem *ab initio*? In the case of Denis Hills, some eight years ago, Mr Callaghan actually visited the then President of Uganda to secure his release. This vigorous course of action might attract Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Alternatively the possibility of an exchange, or "swap", should exercise HM Government. Some Foreign Office officials, as I noted in my many talks with ministers, may find the use of the word "swap" distasteful, but the fact is that countries do engage in "swaps" and Britain has been no exception.

If a "swap" is not acceptable, economic aid in exchange for prisoners is a course which a country in Angola's situation could welcome. Angola might reflect that the cost of keeping seven detainees in prison for many years must be a heavy financial burden on their own people. They would be better off with more aid from us and no prisoners to maintain.

This unhappy story must not be allowed to drag on for years. The prisoners have been punished enough and it is high time for HM Government and Parliament to send a plain message to Angola.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GINSBURG,
3 Bell Moor,
East Heath Road, NW3,
July 19.

Laboured humour?

From the Chairman of Liverpool City Council

Sir, Frank Johnson's laboured attempts at humour at the expense of the unemployed (July 22) are in exceedingly bad taste.

Britain is a small island, tightly knit in its social fabric. The economic calamities which are taking place in various parts of the country, Liverpool included, affect the wellbeing of the country as a whole and arise from circumstances quite beyond the control of the locality concerned. They cannot be seen as little local aberrations.

Those who represent us in Parliament deserve better treatment than to be lampooned by patronising journalists who know no better.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DALTON, Chairman,
Liverpool City Council,
The Town Hall, Liverpool.

Eritrean incident

From Brigadier Charles Cox

Sir, As the commanding officer of the last British Army battalion in Eritrea before the evacuation in 1952, in accordance with the United Nations mandate, I must protest more strongly against the damaging statement by Ian Robinson, in your issue of July 25, that "peasants were dispossessed by the British in 1951".

Apart from action against Shifa recruited mainly from outside the territory relations between the British administration and the local population were always extremely peaceful and friendly. There was certainly no confiscation of property.

Yours faithfully,
C. F. COX,
Broadwell House,
Lechlade,
Gloucestershire.

No 'fool's gold' for him

From Mr Anthony Powell

Sir, In an article headed "Publishing" (July 18), signed by E. J. Craddock, it is suggested that the Arts Council's advisory Literature Panel "cannot bear to hand over their fool's gold (which is not, of course, theirs but yours and mine, O fellow taxpayer) to anyone other than the like of Anthony Powell, and that Mr Powell has neither requested nor needs the money."

May I make quite clear that not only have I not requested any "fool's gold" (whatever that implies) but none has been proffered by the Arts Council.

Yours etc,
ANTHONY POWELL,
The Chantry,
Nr Frome,
Somerset.

Relatively speaking

From Mr T. R. Burch

Sir, Let's stop being prissy about this (Philip Howard, July 19). The reason why the accusative "whom" is used in the question, "But whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew xvi 15) is that it is an exact translation of the Latin version, *Quem me esse dicitis?* where *quem* is accusative because the construction is the one which every schoolboy used to know as the accusative and infinitive, the Latin way of expressing an indirect statement.

In English it's just wrong, even if it does appear in the Authorised Version. The Latin, of course, is an exact translation of the original Greek, where the same construction is used.

Yours relatively,
T. R. BURCH,
Aberdour,
Burgh Heath,
Surrey,
July 26.

Musical matters

From Professor William Mathias

Sir, With all due respect to Mr Gerald Harvey's persistence as a listener (July 25) he is unjust to Mr Robert Ponsoby (July 12) and the BBC's Music Department.

Above all, he fails to recognize that the music of Boulez and Messiaen (however much one wishes that he might persist rather more at least with the latter) he is entirely at liberty to tune in to other living composers whose work is perhaps more to his taste - not a few of them British.

The real and important question which needs to be asked is whether or not the BBC's overall pattern of broadcasting truthfully recognizes and reflects the historically unique musical multiplicity of our time. Despite the fact that it is difficult to achieve this, it must surely be recognized by regular listeners that clear efforts are now being made to do so - Mr Ponsoby, indeed, refers to the present situation as being "admirably diverse".

Mr Harvey's attitude, in contrast, reflects a severely restricted view of

the range of recent music. Some open-minded exploration on his part could serve to reveal a good deal more of it than he suspects to be alive, beautiful and necessary to our lives.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM MATHIAS,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
July 27.

Church authority

From the Reverend M. T. Elvins

Sir, As one interested in the practical implications of Christian unity I thought Richard Harries in his article, "The recovery of authority" (July 23), oversimplified the question of authority, even as understood by John Keble and his friends in the Oxford Movement, who adapted Catholic moral teaching from the current handbooks.

The crucial area of moral authority has yet to be tackled by the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC). This is unfortunate as the standard of moral life is central to the teaching of Vatican II (*Dignitatis Humanae* and *Gaudium et Spes*). Since the Lambeth Conference of

1930 common ground may have been achieved on doctrinal authority, but since that date a widening gap has appeared on moral questions such as the hitherto uninterrupted tradition on birth control, abortion and now the question of divorce.

In each of these areas the state was the first to adapt to changing social values and the authority of the two communions is undermined by divisions. In this therefore authority has been lost rather than gained.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MARK ELVINS, Chaplain,
The Westminster Downy Pilgrimage for Christian Unity,
55 Upper North Street,
Brighton,
Sussex,
July 23.

Beresford Hope silver

From the British Ambassador to Poland

Sir, Last night I gave a dinner party here in honour of Lady Ryder of Warsaw. The attendance of so many representatives of the Polish Government and private individuals was a testimony to the immense achievements of the work of the Sue Ryder Foundation in this country.

As it happened after dinner I read Mr Lewis Massey's letter (July 26) giving his account of the interred way in which he secured the Buenos Aires cup and other items of the Beresford Hope silver in 1946 for the Embassy in Warsaw.

I should like him to know that all the pieces he mentioned were prominently displayed during the dinner and generated a great deal of conversation about this very special episode and the long-term nature of Anglo-Polish relations.

I hope that Mr Massey and your other correspondents will be in no doubt that these beautiful objects are greatly cherished here and put to precisely the purpose for which the Beresford Hope bequest was intended.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORGAN,
H.M. Ambassador,
British Embassy,
Warsaw,
July 29.

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Sussex,
July 23.

Church authority

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In each of these areas the state was the first to adapt to changing social values and the authority of the two communions is undermined by divisions. In this therefore authority has been lost rather than gained.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MARK ELVINS, Chaplain,
The Westminster Downy Pilgrimage for Christian Unity,
55 Upper North Street,
Brighton,
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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1A 9EZ Telephone 01-437 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 707.1 down 4.1 FT Gilt: 78.85 down 0.14 FT All Share: 443.03 down 2.93 (Datastream estimate). Bargains: 17687. Datastream USM Leaders Index: 96.45 down 0.44 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index, 9015.58 down 26.66 Hongkong Hang Seng Index, 1052.84 down 19.18 New York Dow Jones Average latest: 1192.61 down 6.61 Amsterdam: 448.7 down 0.59 Sydney: A O Index, Closed Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index, 981.20 down 11.7 Brussels: General Index, 134.43 up 0.05 Paris: C A C Index, 128.9 down 0.1 Zurich: SKA General, 293.0 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5085 down 1.25 cents Index 85.6 up 0.2 DM 4.0450 up 0.02 Fr 12.1475 up 0.0525 Yen 368.00 up 0.25 Dollar Index 128.5 up 1.0 DM 2.6780 NEW YORK LATEST Sterling \$1.5070 INTERNATIONAL ECU E0.565117 SDR E0.694082

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rate 9 1/2 Finance houses base rate 10 1/2 Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/2 3 month interbank 10-9 1/2 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10 1/2-10 3/4 3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4 3 month Fr 14 1/2-14 1/4 US rates: Bank prime rate 10.50 Fed funds 9 1/2 Treasury long bond 88-88 1/2 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period June 2 to July 5, 1983 inclusive: 9.878 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$413.25 pm \$411.25 Close \$408.25-409 (\$270.50-271) down \$13 New York latest: \$411.25 Kruggerand (per coin): \$420.50-422 (\$278.50-279.50) Sovereigns (new): \$95.50-97.50 (\$54-54.75) *Excludes VAT.

TODAY

Interim: Silverthorne, Finals: Equipu, Jacksons Bourne End, Unitech. Economic Statistics: UK Official Reserves (July); Capital Issues and Redemptions (During July); CBI Industrial Trends Survey (July).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Glossop, Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent (noon); Stood & Simpson, Fosse Way, Syston, Leicester (11.00); Sutcliffe, Speakman, The St James's Club, St James's House, Charlotte Street, Manchester (12.30); United Electronic Holdings, Great Eastern Hotel, EC2 (noon); Warriford Investments, Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, EC2 (noon).

Australian gold mines appear to be coming back into favour. A wave of exploration activity stimulated by the increase in the gold price three years ago is producing results. Many companies have real mines in prospect, but there are still plenty of shares valued in cents rather than dollars.

Forward Technology Industries, the former glamour stock, now has all its divisions back in profit. But debts remain high and margins are still under pressure, so there is a long way to go. Collaboration talks continue. Page 14

Security Centres offer for sale of 11.3 million shares - about a third of the equity - in its newly formed US holding company Scusa Inc, at \$5p a share was oversubscribed. Security Centres shareholders were given preference over 7.3 million shares and are allotted one Scusa for every two Security shares held. The remaining 4 million will be allotted on a ballot basis. The issue raised \$9.3m. Cedar Point shareholders have approved the company's proposed acquisition by a private limited partnership including affiliates of S Pearson, Lazard Freres and the Prudential Insurance Co of America.

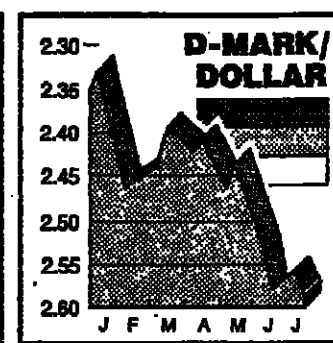
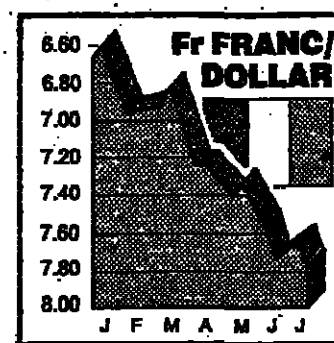
Deutschemark weakens and franc sinks to record low

Dollar leaps again as US interest rate rise looks unavoidable

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Growing fears that American interest rates will rise pushed the dollar to peaks on world financial markets yesterday. It soared 3.5 pence to an eight-year high of DM2.6780 against an enfeebled Deutsche Mark and touched record levels against the French franc among other European currencies. The pound, too, was hit by the dollar's strength, losing 1.25 cents to close in London at \$1.5085, its lowest level for four months. But it made significant headway against European currencies, with gains of 2 pence to DM4.0450 and 5.25 pence to 12.1475 francs.

Reserve Board's new target range signals that the Fed may be tightening credit policy further to rein this growth back, and remarks by Mr Henry Kaufman, the Wall Street analyst, that interest rates were on their way up. Most market observers believe that higher US interest rates cannot be avoided, and a rise in the banks' prime lending rates from 10 1/2 per cent to 11 or even 11 1/2 per cent is thought likely within the next few weeks.



They believe that fears of renewed inflation will force the Fed to curb runaway monetary growth, at a time when the booming economy is reviving private sector demand for credit which is competing for savings with massive Treasury funding needs to finance the burgeoning Federal deficit. Expectations that interest

rates are about to rise has sucked in huge amounts of capital from abroad, to the alarm of European governments who face the unappealing dilemma of letting their currencies weaken - pushing up inflation - or raising interest rates and dampening the already fragile economic recovery.

tal currencies, buoyed by its petrocurrency status. A rise in interest rates would lead to a further unwelcome strengthening against European currencies and would increase industry's borrowing costs, discouraging stockbuilding and investment at a time when the recovery remains patchy and slow. A cut in rates, on the other hand, would alarm the financial markets, which are already worried about above target monetary growth, and could precipitate a steep fall in sterling which would undermine the Government's hopes of keeping inflation low. The signs yesterday were that the authorities will try to keep interest rates at present levels for the time being, though many City analysts believe that rates may have to rise if the dollar's surge continues.

RITN takes 50% of Wall Street bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

RIT and Northern (RITN), the fast-growing financial services group headed by Mr Jacob Rothschild, is exercising options to take a 50 per cent interest in L. F. Rothschild, Interberg, Towbin, the Wall Street investment bank, for \$63.5m (£42m).



Jacob Rothschild: moving into Wall Street

L. F. Rothschild, which bears no connection with the Rothschild banking family, is the leading US investment bank in new share issues and has been enjoying one of its best years on the back of the boom in Wall Street.

RITN is only the second British institution to take a major stake in one of the big Wall Street investment banks. A year ago, the same group, the Oppenheimer group, paid \$91m to take over the Oppenheimer brokerage firm.

For RITN, the move is part of a strategy of building a diversified financial services group offering a broad range of services. Last year, shortly before it announced negotiations with L. F. Rothschild, it took a 29.9 per cent stake in Kitcat and Aitken, the London stockbrokers.

The deal involved a big capital injection for Kitcat. At the time it was seen as a long-term move to capitalize on likely changes in the UK securities industry. However, the deal the Government has now struck with the Stock Exchange on phasing out fixed commissions is expected ultimately to lead to big changes in the stock market and precipitate further tie-ups of this kind.

RITN is taking its 50 per cent partnership interest in L. F. Rothschild by paying \$33.5m to exercise an option on 25 per cent and by converting \$25m of eight-year 14.4 per cent subordinated loan stock and a \$5m limited partnership interest into a further 25 per cent. The conversions need shareholders approval at an extraordinary meeting on September 19.

RITN subscribed for the loan stock at the start of this year. The firm employs about 1,500 people. Although it is much smaller than the giants of the Wall Street investment banks, Mr Towbin said yesterday: "We do everything Merrill Lynch does except commodities."

RITN, which has a net worth of about \$250m reported profits last month up from \$49.7m to \$13.4m in the year to March 31.

Mr Robert Towbin, vice-chairman and senior managing director of the New York firm, said the motive for the deal "was fundamentally financial. I also like Jacob and hope we can do a lot of things together."

Mr Francois Mayer, chief executive of RITN who will join the investment bank's five-man management committee, said RITN would help L. F. Rothschild to develop internationally. At present it has no overseas operations.

L. F. Rothschild does not disclose information relating to profits. However, after the RITN deal it will have an equity base of about \$100m and a balance sheet total of about \$1bn.

Apart from its strong position in the new issues market, particularly in high technology sector issues, L. F. Rothschild is among the top half-dozen investment banks in underwriting and is also involved in a range of bond and securities trading.

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City doubles its profits overseas

By Our Economics Correspondent

The City of London has doubled its surplus on overseas business over the past two years, and now accounts for more than 80 per cent of Britain's net invisible earnings by the private sector.

Last year, the City's surplus jumped by nearly a quarter to a record \$4,400m from \$3,500m in 1981 and \$2,300m in 1980, boosted by big increases in the net overseas earnings of banks and insurance companies.

The City has reaped big benefits from rapidly growing income from investments abroad, reflecting the massive outflows of capital which have followed abolition of exchange controls in 1979, and by the drop in sterling last year which increased the sterling value of earnings in foreign currencies.

The banks alone contributed 40 per cent of the City's total surplus last year. Their net overseas earnings soared by 24 per cent to \$1,660m from \$1,340m in 1981 and \$460m in 1980. Half the increase came from income on foreign investments, which doubled from \$160m in 1981 to \$325m in 1982.

This income has roughly doubled every year since 1979, when it was a meagre \$45m.

The insurance industry is the second biggest invisible earner in the City, its net earnings of \$1,170m last year which represented 27 per cent of the total, were up 20 per cent from 1981, almost entirely due to higher income from investments abroad. This was also the main reason for a near doubling of the net earnings of pension funds, from \$107m in 1981 to \$287m in 1982.

The City is expecting 1983 to be another record-breaking year. The Commission on Invisible Exports recently forecast increases in net earnings of around 10 per cent in the main service industries, including a 7 per cent increase for banking, 5 per cent for insurance, 10 to 15 per cent for the Stock Exchange and 15 to 20 per cent for commodity trading.

BPCC bids £18m for Waddington

By Philip Robinson

Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation yesterday raised its bid price for John Waddington to £18.2m. The new offer was enough to buy out Norton Opax, its rival for control of the Monopoly games maker, but the bid failed to get the backing of the Waddington directors.

Mr Victor Watson, Waddington chairman, rejected the bid, urged shareholders to take no action and said: "I still don't think it is enough."

Norton Opax announced it was accepting the bid and walked away with a £250,000 profit on the deal.

Mr Maxwell, is offering 13 BPCC shares for every five Waddington shares or 249.6p cash. The share offer values Waddington shares at 291.2p. They closed at 264p last night. BPCC is also offering Waddington shareholders on the register on July 29, a special 3p dividend, 7p for the 8 per cent preference shares and 57p cash for the 6 per cent preference shares.

Second Schroder outsider

By Our Banking Correspondent

Schroder Wagg, the City merchant bank which recently announced the appointment of Mr Win Bischoff as its youngest ever chairman, is strengthening its equity side with the appointment of Mr William Harrison at 34.

Mr Harrison has become a director of the merchant bank after leaving the troubled oil company Tricentral where he was group treasurer and head of corporate finance.

Mr Bischoff, who is 42, and takes over in October, said yesterday there could well be more external appointments, although probably not at board level. They would probably be in the more sophisticated areas.

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IN BRIEF

GEC pulls out of Torch deal

GEC has pulled out of its provisional agreement to buy a majority stake in Torch, the troubled microcomputer company.

Instead, Torch's existing shareholders will put up £1m, which the board says is more than sufficient to meet immediate financial requirements.

As a condition of the new funding, Torch's two founders, Mr Martin Wisland-Boddy and Mr Peter Harris, have resigned as chairman and managing director respectively. Mr Harris will remain on the board and both men retain shareholdings.

Mr Bob Gilkes of Strategic Planning Systems becomes chairman and joint managing director. The other joint managing director is Mr Guy Neely, former finance director of Glaxo.

Mr Morgan Grenfell's cash offer on behalf of News Corp Investments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of News Corporation to acquire all the special dividend shares of News International closed yesterday with 3,730,931 acceptances representing 43.6 per cent of shares subject to the offer. This brings the total holding of News Corporation and its subsidiaries to 87.9 per cent.

BMW's turnover was £6,899m (£1.74m) in the first half of this year, up 15.8 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Shares give ground in moderate trading

New York (AP - Dow Jones) - Stocks gave ground slowly in moderately active trading, yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down almost 7 points after failure of a recovery that had cut its early loss of about 5 points back to a fraction.

Losers were nearly 5-to-2 ahead of advances. Mr Ralph Acampora, vice-president for Technical Analysis at Kidder Peabody & Co, said: "There is still too much complacency even after last week's drop. For the first time since the market upturn began last August the market has suffered some internal damage

WALL STREET

Bansch Lomb was down 2 1/2 at 54.

Barron's Magazine reported that strong new competitors were moving in on Bansch Lomb's soft contact lens market. Many of its earlier smaller competitors have been taken over by large companies with strong marketing skills and financial muscle.

Honeywell was up 3/8 to 118 1/2. Teledyne off 1/2 at 159 1/2. Motorola up 2 1/2 to 136 1/2. NCR off 1/2 at 121 1/2. Texas Instruments off 3/8 to 108 1/2. Digital Equipment up 1 1/2 to 103 1/2. Mercantile Stores down 1 1/2 to 70 1/2. and Amp Inc up 1 1/2 to 98 1/2.

and this way it could go lower." For the moment, Mr Acampora says "stocks are trading water trying to stay about 1.85. But the market is weak internally and it is going to take time to correct the damage."

General Motors was 73 off 1/2. Ford 59 1/2 off 1/2. Chrysler 27 1/2 off 1/2. General Electric 49 1/2 off 1/2. International Business Machines 120 1/2 up 1/2. American Stores 33 1/2 off 1/2. American Express 63 off 1/2. Exxon 36 1/2 up 1/2. Hewlett Packard 86 1/2 up 1/2.

AGA Aktiebolag

(Incorporated with limited liability in the Kingdom of Sweden)

("the Company")

Notice to the holders of the outstanding 7 1/4 per cent. Convertible Bonds 1989 of the Company

in the denomination of U.S.\$1,000 each ("the Bonds")

convertible into fully paid registered ordinary shares series B of 50 Swedish kronor each of the Company which are free shares for the purposes of the Swedish Companies Act 1975 ("B Shares")

The attention of holders of the Bonds is drawn to the Notice of Redemption published in The Times on 1st July, 1983 which contains relevant details relating to the redemption of the Bonds, the right of holders of the Bonds, as an alternative to redemption, to convert the principal amount of their Bonds into B Shares and the action to be taken by holders of the Bonds wishing either to accept redemption or to exercise such right to convert.

The right to convert the principal amount of the Bonds will expire on 16th August, 1983. So long as the market value of the B Shares (when converted at the then prevailing rate of exchange between the Swedish krona and the U.S. dollar) is U.S.\$31.36 or more per share, holders of Bonds will upon conversion receive B Shares and if applicable cash in lieu of any entitlement to a fraction of a B Share having in aggregate a greater market value than the cash which they would receive on redemption of their Bonds. Failure to deliver Bonds for conversion on or before 16th August, 1983 will result in redemption at a price (including accrued interest) of U.S.\$1,062.51 for each U.S.\$1,000 principal amount of Bonds.

IMPORTANT

Value of the B Shares (including fractional entitlement) into which each U.S.\$1,000 principal amount of Bonds is convertible based on the Average Market Price per B Share on the Stockholm Stock Exchange on 29th July, 1983 (converted from Swedish kronor to U.S. dollars at the rate of exchange then prevailing) at U.S.\$43.94 per share U.S.\$1,477.91

Redemption price (together with accrued interest) for each U.S.\$1,000 principal amount of Bonds U.S.\$1,062.51

IF HOLDERS OF THE BONDS ARE IN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE ACTION THEY SHOULD TAKE OR AS TO THE TAX CONSEQUENCES FOR THEM OF ANY PARTICULAR ACTION THEY SHOULD CONSULT THEIR STOCKBROKER, LAWYER, ACCOUNTANT OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISER WITHOUT DELAY.

For and on behalf of AGA Aktiebolag

Lidingö, Sweden Jan Belfrage Johan Lagercrantz

Dated 2nd August, 1983 Officers authorized to sign on behalf of the Company.

Airline in 'buyers' market' for new aircraft

BCal on course for return to profit

By Edward Towse, Industrial Correspondent

British Caledonian, the nation's largest, independent airline and the latest to face sales pressure from the European Airbus Industrie consortium, is confident of returning to profitability after two years of losses.

While BCal employees have been told recently that 1982-83 results - covering the year up to the end of October - remain "extremely uncertain", Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of the Caledonian Aviation Group, told The Times that the airline was now operating profitably and was "well on target".

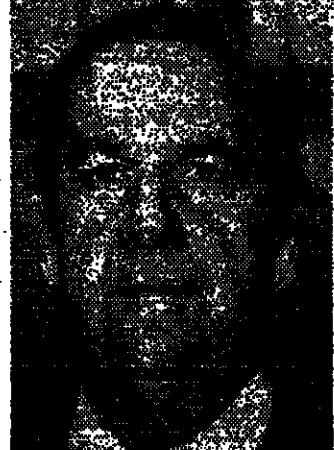
The Gatwick-based group, which includes subsidiaries involved in travel, hotels, helicopters and engineering, as well as the airline, was barely profitable in 1981-82, earning a pretax figure of £1.54m from consolidated turnover of £400.6m. The result, however,

marked a rapid turnaround from a loss of £6.2m recorded the previous year.

BCal, whose lucrative South American services continue to be hit badly by the aftermath of the Falklands hostilities, lost £655,000 last year, compared with £8m in 1980-81.

Now, the airline is being wooed by Airbus to place orders for its proposed A320, the 150-seater aircraft which is not yet off the drawing board and which is being regarded with scepticism in particular by the British and West German governments, both of whom would have to stump up large amounts of development cash if the project goes ahead.

British Airways, which needs to replace its noisy Trident and BAC 1-11s by 1986, has declared a decision about the A320 and could well opt for the new Boeing 737-300 or the McDonnell-Douglas DC9-80.



Towse: BCal "well on target"

Sir Adam, who will need replacements for at least 10 of BCal's 16 1-11s, is keenly aware that with airline investment remaining depressed he is operation in a buyer's market. No decision about replacements will be made until the end of the year, he said. "We are considering all options."

Orders from either of the airlines would assist greatly in Airbus's present marketing strategy. British Aerospace, which has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus, has applied for state launch aid but the Government remains cautious.

With a possible BA deal seeming less likely, Airbus is now pinning hopes on BCal, particularly as the airline has ordered three Airbus A310, 250-seat wide-bodied jets the first of which will be in service next spring.

Some observers believe that the A320 may not fly before the end of the decade. Apart from the share in the estimated £1,000m launch aid, the British Government will also have to consider putting up money for the five-nation jet engine project being led by Rolls-Royce and Pratt & Whitney of the United States.

Mazda sales help TKM recovery

By Wayne Lintott

Booming sales of the Japanese car group Mazda have provided a much needed fillip for the ailing importing company Tozer Kemistry & Milbourn (Holding).

Reporting interim pretax profits for the six months ended June of £3.9m, against a £1.3m loss a year ago, Sir Montague Prichard, the chairman, said that Mazda was mainly responsible for the £2.9m profits contributed by associate companies.

Once again no dividend is being paid but Sir Montague holds out some hope when he says that profits for the full year should be satisfactory.

The bulk of the rationalization programme has been completed. Extraordinary write-offs fall from £19.9m in last year's second half to £482,000 for the first six months and "should be in the same order during the current second half," Sir Montague added.

Some gains should also be derived from firming timber and pulp prices but asset disposals are still taking place.

Mazda is about to sell off its insurance subsidiaries for around £2.5m and the Wadhwa Stringer Depots are also up for sale.

Asset sales have enabled TKM to cut last year's £105m worth of borrowings to below £90m.

Stronger challenge for Waddington

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Michael Prest

The ability of John Waddington, the master of the Monopoly game, to maintain its independence now looks doubtful.

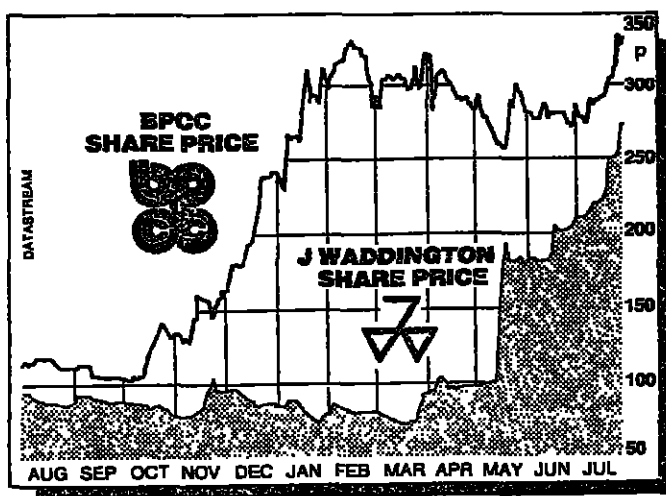
For almost two months the Leeds company has fought off rival bids from the small lottery ticket company Norton Opax and the much larger British Printing & Communications Corporation, headed by the irrepressible Mr Robert Maxwell.

Mr Maxwell threw the dice again yesterday and increased his offer to a level which must challenge seriously Waddington's defence.

Mr Maxwell is offering 13 BPPC shares for every five Waddington shares and a 249.6p cash alternative. Significantly, the terms were sufficient to tempt his rivals Norton Opax to accept the offer for its 9 per cent of the shares. Norton walks away with a £230,000 profit before tax - that is about a quarter of what it made from lottery tickets last year.

But it will be credited with keeping the auction price high. BPPC is offering £5m more than it originally bid, and £7m more than the opening bid from Norton.

Nevertheless, Waddington is still determined to fight on despite BPPC's strong position. With the Norton shares in the bag BPPC speaks for about a fifth of the company. The main plank of Waddington's defence, however, is to offer shareholders that staple of takeover defences - jam tomorrow.



For shareholders who have seen their income cut and the price of the shares down this year to 68p it is difficult to imagine what Waddington can say to convince them to hold on. BPPC's price gives Waddington a respectable exit price earnings ratio of about 12. Mr Maxwell is certainly not getting the company on the cheap.

It says that profits this year will be not less than £3m and that the dividend will total 15p. Both figures represent record payouts, the like of which have not been seen since 1979.

That was the last year when profits were measured in millions and the dividend in double figures. Since, Waddington had two big trading setbacks and to some minds has demonstrated that in a small company the jobs of chairman and managing director should be held by separate people.

Its attraction now for BPPC is that the problems appear to be over. Mr Maxwell has plans to revitalize the games division while bringing in a stationery and packaging business which he says is complementary.

Forward Technology

Forward Technology Industries Half-year to 30.6.83 Pretax profit £111,000 (loss £183,000) Stated earnings 0.3p (p3.1p) Turnover £14,937m (£12,578m) Net interim dividend Nil p Nil Share price 34p Yield Nil

Continuing activities. All subsidiaries of the heavily pruned Forward Technology Industries are now back to profit. However, the mountain of debt relating to the discontinued businesses, accounting for about half of the £230,000 interest charge, still weighs heavily on the profitability for the first half of 1983.

However, borrowings have been whittled down by about £1m from the year end level to £7.5m and the market celebrated the return to pretax profits with a 5p rise to 34p. Unreliable overseas sales leading to a tax charge of £150,000 for the six months meant continued losses of £39,000, at the attributable level rising to a loss of £176,000 after extraordinary losses relating to final costs of the rationalization programme.

The best news is in the sound and vision division where operating profits jumped to £341,000 from just £99,000 in the comparative period thanks to the opening up of new market areas such as computer cassettes for video games.

Westgate chairman elected

Westgate Insurance Company: Mr G. Grabscheid has been elected chairman after the retirement of Mr R. S. Lane. Lovell & Christmas: Mr Kevin Hopps has been appointed finance director. He succeeds Mr M. A. Bracey. Selsdon: Mr F. Hoop, Dr D. G. B. Horne and Mr J. O'Malley have joined the board. SAC Technology Group: Mr Raymond Whitfield has joined the board. John Laing International: Mr John Armit has been appointed assistant managing director. He will be responsible for the company's work in Iraq, Egypt, Nigeria and the Falkland Islands. Wolverhampton Abrasives: Mr R. T. Clark has become director and general manager of the company, a subsidiary of IMI. Stewart Wrixton (Reinsurance) Brokers: Mr B. E. Desjardins has become a director. Sharp Unquoted Midland Investment Trust (SUMIT): Mr John Prestwich has been appointed a non-executive director. Rittal: Mr W. G. Eckford has been managing director. Brown and Root - Wimpey Highlands Fabricators: Mr Kevin J. Barry, a director of George Wimpey, has been appointed executive deputy chairman from September 1. Mr R. C. Walker will continue as managing director. British Telecommunications: Mr John Alvey has been appointed managing director, development and procurement, and engineering Computer Systems: Mr David Gart has been appointed chairman and managing director. Mr Kerry Brown sales director, and Mr David Hill technical director, responsible for all hardware and software development. M & G Group: Mr K. F. W. Allsop has joined the board. Winchester Bowring: Mr R. G. Stone has become a director. Mr J. M. Dowlen and Mr J. E. Sprakes have been appointed departmental directors and Mr M. V. Gallafant and Mr S. D. L. Perry have become assistant directors. C H Beazer (Holdings): Lord Digby has been appointed to the board.

WALL STREET

July 27	July 28	July 27	July 28	July 27	July 28
AMF Inc	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2
Allied Chem	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Chem	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Ind	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Paper	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Steel	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Wire	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Zinc	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Alum	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Chem	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Ind	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Alcoa Paper	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
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Marketing and Advertising: Torin Douglas asks why a potential target is being missed

Ignored generation loses out to the oldest obsession

QUESTIONS are starting to be asked about the advertising man's dictum that young people have money to spend and older people have none.

Table: Older Age Groups' Spending, Borrowing and Saving. Columns: % of population, expenditure, of credit, of savings. Rows: 55-64, 65+.

Table: Ownership of Modern Consumer Durables. Columns: Total, 45-54, 55-64. Rows: Sandwich toaster, Filter coffee machine, Food processor, Rotisserie grill, Microwave oven.

young. Cash savings incentives for schoolchildren are an example.

If new customers are coming into the market, a company has a far better chance of winning them to its products than it has of persuading existing users to switch brands.

However, there is a growing realization among many marketing people that this concentration on youth has gone too far and that it is short-sighted to aim products so firmly at young people when the middle-aged have so much disposable income.

Older people have more money to spend than has been generally assumed. Yet only financial advisers seem to have grasped this. Older people save and invest more.

"There are 18 million people in Britain over the age of 50, of whom almost 9 million are more than 65", Mr Howard Lind, an economic consultant maintains.

"This is 40 per cent of the adult population. This would appear to be an enormous potential market and one wonders why relatively little attention has been paid to it in the past by the sellers of goods and services.

One reason, says Mr Lind, is that it is widely believed that older people are relatively poor and unwilling to spend, a view given some substance by figures from the Family Expenditure Survey of 1980 which showed that while the 50-60 age group earned substantially more than the national average, those aged between 60 and 65 fell somewhat below and the over-65s were overwhelmingly in the lowest earnings category.

"As is often the case with government statistics, however, these figures are potentially misleading to marketers", says Mr Lind. "The definition of income used is 'normal weekly income', which is a category designed to show how much people in employment earn - not the real disposable income of the retired.

"The latter is often supplemented by savings or gifts from families and is helped by the fact that necessary outgoings tend to be very much smaller, due to the absence of a dependent family and the probability that housing costs are lower.

"A further reason sometimes advanced for marketers to ignore the old is that, over the past few years, government policy has tended to work against old age pensioners, thus lowering their purchasing power.

"In fact, this appears to be the reverse of the truth. The major way in which the present

recession has made its impact is through a heavy increase in unemployment. This has undoubtedly affected the younger age groups, particularly those below 25, but relatively has had less impact on those over 50 and, by definition, no impact at all on the retired."

As Mr Lind suggests, over-definition for marketing purposes, since those between the age of 50 and 60 could well be at the highest earnings level of their life, while most those over 65 will rely on a pension. And both groups are almost ignored by the marketing world.

Mr Derek Davies, marketing manager of the IPC women's

magazines group, analysed the list of requests from advertising agencies involving IPC titles. "Of 62 requests, only two involved a target market of over-45s. No fewer than 50 were for targets of the under-45s or the under-35s. Ten had a broad 'all women' or 'all housewives' target. That is a fairly typical balance in our experience, and explains the problem faced by the prospective publisher of a mature market women's monthly."

Mr Davies believes that the public would welcome a magazine aimed specifically at older women, but that lack of interest from advertisers ensures that such a title will not be launched.

There is no magazine produced with specifically the alert, intelligent older woman in mind. *Woman and Home* is one of those magazines that come closest to this ideal but even its publisher regarded with some concern signs that it was increasing its elderly readership.

But while companies profess to be aiming at the younger market for sound commercial reasons, it is arguable that by doing so they are alienating a major potential market.

Rather than treat the old as a separate market, the answer could be to include them in the commercials aimed at the mainstream mass market. "At present some marketing people still fear that if I put somebody from an older age group in my advertising, my product will look old-fashioned", says Mr Mo Drake, deputy chairman of Lintas, the advertising agency.

This reluctance to include older people in commercials is curious when one considers that this group watches proportion-

ally more television than most - around half of ITV viewing, in terms of hours viewed, accounted for by the over-35s.

What makes the problem acute - and why the marketing business is turning its attention to the issue - is not just that the over-30s are seen to have significant disposable income but that people are living longer. This section of the population is getting larger.

Some firms have started to get the message, mainly in the financial field, where a number of companies are producing specific policies and advertisements for the over-50s, notably Sun Life Assurance which has been advertising its 50-plus motor policies with headlines such as "With our motor policy, a 50-year-old expert doesn't have to subsidise a 20-year-old tearaway". Saga Holidays is another exception that proves the rule.

For most marketing companies, however, the over-50s are still regarded as "non-consumers", in spite of the fact that for a number of key markets they out-perform the population as a whole.

Mr David Winton, chairman of the Taylor Nelson research company, told the conference that the 45-54 age group was a big buyer of "modern" consumer durables, such as sandwich toasters, coffee filter machines, food processors and rotisserie grills.

"Overall, the over-50s do seem to be an attractive market," says Mr Winton. "As their children leave home, their lives become emptier, they have more money to spend on themselves and they are often seeking a more meaningful life. Neglect them at your peril."

Marshall's Halifax PLC. Sales £47.25m up 18%. Pre-tax profit £3.55m up 24%. Total dividends 6p up 20%. "A good level of activity is being sustained throughout the group, and I am confident that we shall have another satisfactory year."

Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn (Holdings) plc. Return to profitability.

Directors' Interim Report to Shareholders. Consolidated unaudited results for six months to 30th June 1983. Table with columns: 6 Months to 30th June 1983, 6 Months to 30th June 1982, Year to 31st Dec 1982.

Base Lending Rates. Table listing rates for various banks: ABN Bank, Barclays, BCCI, Consolidated Crds, C. Hoare & Co, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, Nat Westminster, TSB, Williams & Glyn's.

SAVE TAX AND CREATE EMPLOYMENT. The Business Expansion Scheme demands your immediate attention. The 1983 Finance Act enables taxpayers to benefit from investment in expanding British businesses.

HARVARD SECURITIES LIMITED. Please send me without obligation further information on The Business Expansion Scheme. I should also like to receive, FREE, the next three issues of your Monthly Newsletter.

HAMPTON GOLD MINING AREAS. Results for the year to 31.3.83. Table with columns: 31.3.83, 31.3.82. Rows: Turnover, Profit before tax, Profit after tax, Earnings per share, Dividends per share.

Coca-Cola Bottling of New York Finance N.V. Notice of Redemption to Holders of 6 3/4% Convertible Subordinated Debentures due August 15, 1993. Pursuant to Article Eleven of the Indenture dated as of August 15, 1978 among Coca-Cola Bottling of New York Finance N.V., The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of New York, Inc. and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Inc. as trustee...

CITICORP and subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET. (In Millions of Dollars) June 30 1983. Table with columns: ASSETS, LIABILITIES, STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING General Electric Credit International N.V. 9 3/4% Guaranteed Notes Due 1991. Interested persons are hereby reminded that payment of the second and final instalment of the purchase price of the above-mentioned 9 3/4% Guaranteed Notes Due 1991 (the "Notes") of General Electric Credit International N.V. ("International"), such instalment being an amount equal to 80% of the principal amount, may be made on August 1, 1983 by persons shown in the records of either Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Operator of the Euro-clear System, or Cedel S.A. as being entitled to such Notes.

MARKET REPORT

Dunlop's overseas control

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 1. Dealings end, Aug 12. Contango Day, Aug 15. Settlement Day, Aug 22.

Overseas investors now control more than half the shares in Dunlop, Britain's ailing multinational tyre company.

The New York-based Morgan Guaranty Trust announced yesterday that it has increased its holdings in London from 12.2 per cent to 17.4 per cent of Dunlop.

These represent American Depositary Receipts held, according to Morgan Guaranty, on behalf of a large number of individuals.

The Malaysian Pegi group already holds 26.1 per cent of Dunlop shares and since June has had two representatives on the board.

Mr Robin Gilchrist, at brokers James Capel, yesterday revealed details of new research in the US which shows that Glaxo's new anti-ulcer drug, Zantac, has already increased its share of the new prescriptions market from 7 per cent to 12.2 per cent.

However, despite the bullish news, Glaxo shares were down 10p at 90p on the days trading.

nounced a 12 per cent interest in June, acquired over the previous three months.

Dunlop returned losses totalling £80m last year on sales of £1.5bn due to the depressed state of markets, which con-

tinues. At last December balance sheet values, shareholders funds total £251m, £387m on current costs basis.

On the stock market, where Dunlop shares were unchanged at 62p yesterday, the group is valued at £89m. Pegi has suggested it is a long-term holder and has a deal for joint control of Dunlop's Malaysian interests awaiting Malaysian government approval.

Elsewhere, the first day of the new account was marked by a heavy early morning fall in leading share prices as the market responded to the sharp overnight fall on Wall Street on Friday.

Poor American money supply figures also heightened fears of higher interest rates in New York, but the London market recovered during the afternoon to leave the FT Index down by 4.1 points at 707.1 at the close.

Gilt was down by 3p at their worst, but also came back at

the FT Gilt Index closed down 0.14 at 185.

Among the leading shares ICI were down by 10p at one stage, but later rallied to finish 2p down at 524p.

Shares of Boots were effectively unchanged at 166p in their new slurred down form.

Analyses are looking for a 25 per cent increase to £1m in pretax profits this year at Dares Estates, the property group, its shares stand at 19p, against stated assets of 29p per share, and the company has now re-let 30 per cent of the Pacific Professional Centre, in the United States, which has been a problem investment since an important tenant left the premises last year.

Aurora Holdings returned to the market at 5p, to close at 7p, after the share suspension and capital reconstruction.

Much of the early excitement

was provided by simultaneous announcements from Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of British Printing & Communication Corporation. Mr Maxwell upped his bid for John Waddington, the Monopoly games company, from £13m to £18m, while announcing details of a £20m scheme to redevelop the Odhams printing plant site at Watford.

BPPC shares were down 6p at 106p by the afternoon, with Waddington shares jumping 20p to 280p in early trading, later to fall back to close at 4p at 264p.

Meanwhile, shares of Norton Opax, the lottery tickets company, which announced it was pulling out of the bidding for Waddington were down 5p at 123p on publication of the news.

Bank shares were also out of favour in the middle of the reporting season. Barclays led the sector down, falling 10p to close at 479p, while Lloyds Bank shares were down by 30p at 514p after going ex dividend.

Midland Bank, held firm at 444p, but National Westminster, also ex dividend, were down by 25p at 619p.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for issue name, price, and other details.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for fund name, price, and other details.

MIDLANDS table with columns for company name, price, and other details.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for company name, price, and other details.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for authority name, price, and other details.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for stock name, price, and other details.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for bank name, price, and other details.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES table with columns for company name, price, and other details.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for company name, price, and other details.

1982/83 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E table.

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TAYLOR WOODROW logo and tagline: TEAMWORK IN DEVELOPMENT WORLDWIDE

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1982/83 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E table.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table showing Sterling spot and forward rates for various locations like New York, London, etc.

Money Market Rates

Table showing Money Market Rates for various banks and currencies.

Other Markets

Table showing Other Markets including Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, etc.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table showing Dollar Spot Rates for various countries like Ireland, Canada, etc.

Euro-Deposits

Table showing Euro-Deposits for various banks and currencies.

Gold

Table showing Gold prices and related information.

1982/83 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E table.

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Dixons, the High Street group, last week announced a £21m expansion programme reflecting consumer interest in electronics. ROGER WOOLNOUGH talks to Mark Souhami, managing director of the retail division.

Come into the shop and try a computer

In the High Streets of Britain, they are trying to get to grips with the microcomputer. As consumer interest soars, and sales mushroom, many stores are seizing the chance to expand their business. Yet while retailers have no doubts about the microcomputer's significance, uncertainties continue to cloud the way these new opportunities are to be exploited.

One retail group which has grasped the micro is Dixons. The company tested a computer centre in one store at the end of 1981, and the operation went national last July. Today about 30 Dixons stores have large areas devoted to computers, and every one of the group's 260 branches now has some kind of computer centre.

But Mark Souhami, managing director of the Dixons group retail division, admits that the way in which computers are marketed is still in an unstable state. "We have not positioned Dixons at this time," he says. "All we have done is identify that marketing computers is going to be extremely important to us because it interacts with other aspects of our business. We think this product is right at the core of what we are all about."

At present, Dixons believes the whole business is in a transient phase of educating the user, or even of identifying the user.

Later it will enter a stage where there is an informed and aware purchaser, as with calculators and other products. "Then you will need a different type of marketing."

The target area which Dixons has staked out is essentially the high end of the home computer market and the low end of the business market. The company has no doubts that much of the action will be at the retail level, because as prices fall the acquisition of a computer will become a retail rather than a business purchase. "I doubt whether these days many people would dream of buying a calculator from an office equipment company," says Souhami.

But how does a group like Dixons, which until now has specialized in photographic equipment and consumer electronics, extend its scope to the strange new world of computer hardware and software? David



Mark Souhami: Educating the user

Gilbert, a Dixons senior product manager, explains three steps which the company has taken. "The most crucial thing," he says, "is that we must have salesmen in our shops capable of demonstrating the machine, and showing the customer the different applications. This is quite a complex exercise, because for each of the computers we sell there are different software packages, and different types of language."

MARKETING

Over a year ago, Dixons started sending sales staff on training courses, so that at least one member from each of the 260 branches is capable of programming a computer. "We don't pretend we've got very far along this route," admits Souhami. "There are 2,500 people out there, and it will take a long time to train them all. And there's definitely a generation gap with some of the older managers."

Next, Dixons decided it was essential to create an environment in the stores which is conducive to learning about computers. These computer centres are equipped with desks and chairs, and a range of computers and software packages with which customers can experiment. Trained staff is on hand to give assistance and advice.

This tackles what Souhami sees as one of the computer's key differences compared with other consumer products: "You have to be able to operate it in

the store," he explains. "With most products, the customer knows in advance what it will do, like a lawnmower. Or the demonstration is relatively simple, as with a television set or video recorder, or non-existent, as with a camera. But in order to be sold, a computer actually has to be used. There are considerable problems in that fact."

Inviting passers-by into your store to try out a computer can have its drawbacks. "A lot of people are just entertaining themselves," says Souhami. "We haven't cracked this problem. We are not being all-knowing about this, we are being very careful not to pontificate."

The third aspect of Dixons' strategy is software. As computers are not compatible with each other, separate software has to be stocked for each one. This could easily get out of hand, and Dixons has approached the problem in two ways.

"For each computer system we stock four, six or perhaps a dozen titles which we believe are the winners," says Gilbert. "They also span a large spectrum of interest."

To back this up, there is Dixons Software Express, a mail order service for computer and TV games software.

Sales are made by catalogue which lists more than 400 different titles. It is not all space games and Pac-Man, there's a good selection of educational software, too.

"A lot of software is junk," claims Ian Williams, a Dixons buyer. "We have tried to select the best - software which actually does something for the customer."

So far, he says, most home computers have been used mainly to play games, but he believes this is changing. "The main reason the consumer believes he is buying the product in the first place is to educate himself."

As educational software improves, it becomes possible to use the computer for this purpose. The Dixons catalogue includes teach-yourself software for programming, maths, foreign languages, and other areas of study, and a selection of "home office" applications like word processing.

Hewlett Packard takes the offensive

Worried that it may lose out on the personal computer market, Hewlett-Packard is geared up for an all-out attack, with a major internal reorganization and the launch of products which concentrate on high performance.

In terms of 1982 worldwide computer revenues, Hewlett-Packard lies seventh, behind IBM, DEC, Burroughs, NCR, Control Data and Sperry, but it believes that only IBM and DEC will retain their positions until 1986 because they have adapted to the micro market.

Hewlett-Packard aims to become number three by 1986, by gathering its diverse computer activities into five strategic areas which will focus on business development, personal computing, information networking, marketing, central processors and software.

This is contrary to the original policies laid down by the company's founders, which have proved successful in other areas, such as scientific and medical instruments.

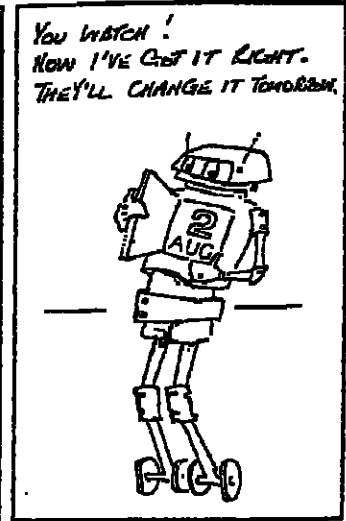
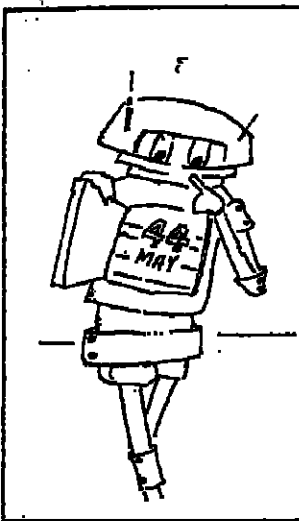
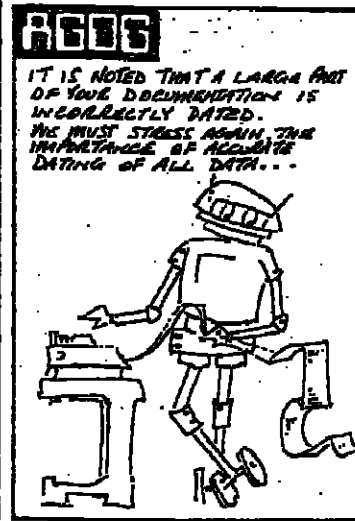
"The company consisted of small entities to foster internal competition," explained John Goding, head of the Business Development Group and former personal computer manager. "Our challenge is to re-focus without destroying our original attributes and reputation."

Hewlett-Packard's change of approach is to be matched by a new range of products.

Three additions to the HP3000 business computers range have been announced initially, to fill in current gaps and provide increased performance capabilities. These are the series 42 and 48, which offer improvements of 20-30% over the existing series 40 and 44, respectively, and the top-end series 68 capable of supporting 8Megabytes of memory, 400 terminals, 24 disc drives, and 24 intelligent network processors, which Hewlett-Packard claims offers up to a 100 per cent advance on the series 64.

Cash incentives are offered to encourage existing customers to upgrade to new models. The latest release of the HP Multi-Programming Executive operating systems may also prove an attraction. MPE-V supports concurrent processing with high-speed disc caching of memory, and is available as an add-on to the recently announced series 39 low-cost entry level system.

Maggie McLening



THE WEEK

Clive Cookson

Britain is again being courted by the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics (IBI), the UNESCO affiliate responsible for developing computer technology in the Third World.

Julian Bogod, director of the United Kingdom Council for Computing Development, is championing IBI's cause in this country. At meetings with government officials and industry representatives he puts what he sees as the strong case for Britain joining the Rome-based organization.

Mr Bogod believes that the extremely ambitious billion dollar programme of information technology projects being planned by IBI really will take off (though probably not, he admits, quite at the \$100m level) and that the British computer industry would gain important new Third World markets if the United Kingdom takes part.

Less than a quarter of all United Kingdom members have joined IBI, and France, Italy and Spain are the only European participants. As a result, Mr Bogod says, the French and Italian computer industries will win business and goodwill in the developing world.

The Government considered joining IBI in 1980 and 1982 but decided not to take the plunge. There are several reasons for official scepticism about the organisation. For example:

● Doubts about whether IBI has the technical and managerial strengths that will be required for its ambitious programme;

● A feeling that IBI is so dominated by the French and Italians that Britain would have to make a disproportionate effort to bring its influence to bear;

● Belief that British efforts would be better concentrated on bilateral computer projects in specific developing countries;

INDUSTRY

Political distaste for an organisation, many of whose members have left-wing governments, whose major conferences are held in Cuba and whose director-general, Fernin Barasconi, is an Argentinian.

Some observers point out that IBI needs Britain much more than we need IBI. British membership would not only bring the organisation much needed funds (the United Kingdom subscription would be in the region of \$3m) but also persuade several other Commonwealth countries to join.

Membership is currently skewed towards French and Spanish speaking countries in Africa and Latin America. Worse still for IBI, the French Government - hard-pressed financially and committed to its own expensive Centre Mondiale in Paris - is threatening to withdraw.

Nonetheless, Mr Bogod believes IBI now has the managerial and technical skills to succeed. France would not really pull out because French industry is too closely involved already and because withdrawal would provoke a political outcry from French speaking members. And the one way to make certain that France remained in IBI would be for Britain to join.

IBI's budget rose from \$2.7m in 1977/78 to \$14.5m in 1981/82 as the organization began to change from a waffling shop to a body sponsoring practical projects and training computer staff from the Third World. Activity should build up on a larger scale from next year, when IBI is to hold a big conference in Havana with computer industry representatives to drum up more support. (The programme is called SPIN, for Strategies and Policies for Informatics.)

FINANCE

Ten major projects are already under way and in most cases IBI is providing about one third of the funding, with most coming from participating governments. The biggest is a \$4.5m project to establish a national legal information system for Argentina, based on one set up for the Italian Supreme Court. Others include a French-Tunisian project to create a computer system for developing applications in Arabic (\$500,000) and a Spanish-Cuban project to link Cuba into Spain's telephone network.

Although IBI was spawned by Unesco in 1974, it does not count as a proper United Nations agency. One important difference, apart from IBI's smaller size, is its close involvement with industry. Mr Bogod believes that, apart from any altruistic motives for helping the Third World, the interests of the British computer

industry would be served best by joining IBI this year when it really needs us and we would gain maximum credit. If we wait until after the SPIN programme has taken off next year, he says, Britain will not get such favourable terms.

TECHNOLOGY

Nine second operation
SINCLAIR RESEARCH, the pioneering British home computer company, has launched the long delayed Microdrive for its Spectrum computer.

The £50 device, which is based on an entirely new type of tape cartridge, stores up to 85,000 characters (85K Bytes) of information and it can load a full programme into the Spectrum in nine seconds - an operation that takes several minutes from a conventional cassette.

The Microdrive will be made available by mail order first, to the 500,000 Spectrum owners in the order in which they bought their computers.

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What if you chose Hewlett-Packard as a business computer partner?



"The HP3000 has saved us £50,000 a year - and that's just on label printing!"

- Gordon Pitt, K Shoes Ltd.

Would you consult a computer manufacturer on product labelling? K Shoes did. Now they're in the forefront of an industry-wide move to provide bar-coded stock, with practical applications in retailing and wholesaling. They're also saving £50,000 a year on printing costs!

K Shoes is that rarity - a successful British shoe manufacturer. They sell up to five million pairs a year

from their ranges for men, women and children and offer the widest range of shoe sizes and fittings in Europe.

Problem: Preparing 24,000 box labels a day with hundreds of size, colour and coding variations.

The solution: An HP 3000 business computer driving an HP laser printer. As well as printing all the right details of each pair of shoes, it adds useful refinements like a digitised drawing of the shoe, and a tear-off stock-control slip.

Systems and Computer Services Manager, Gordon Pitt, says: "The HP system was the only one that could do what we wanted. The fact that it could do it faster, better and cheaper than the old ways was a very nice bonus indeed."

You too will see results you can measure.

Using an HP 3000 for labelling shoes is just one example of the way Hewlett-Packard computers produce measurable results in specific business applications.

But the HP 3000 Series computers are not just dedicated systems. They're full-capability business computers. They can support one user - or 144 users. They're designed to be the heart of HP's Interactive Office, where word processing, electronic mail, business graphics, personal filing and time management can all be integrated with your data processing.

Talking business with Hewlett-Packard.

When you open up discussions with HP you're talking face to face with a world leader in business computation. But one with a very personal approach to business problem-solving. Massive, dedicated resources support our equipment. A powerful service organisation supports you.

Here, in Britain, HP runs a highly developed training programme for over 3,000 people every year. A separate HP company specialises in providing flexible purchase/leasing arrangements tailored to individual customer needs.

The HP book of solutions.

Whether you need a computer to help run your business, make decisions, or to do specific complex tasks - Hewlett-Packard has the solutions - and the people that can bring them quickly and effectively to the place you work. There's a free booklet about them. For your copy write to: Pat Warland, Hewlett-Packard Ltd, Nine Mile Ride, Easthampstead, Wokingham, Berks, RG11 3LL.



About HP in the UK*
Size: Among the top 500 UK companies. Turnover: £168 m.
Current growth rate: 42% p.a. UK employees: 2,400.
1982 capital expenditure: £8.3 m.
*AS QUOTED IN HEWLETT-PACKARD LIMITED'S 1982 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

Bringing solutions to the place you work.



Read the small print, academics

Nesting among the large and often colourful advertisements for commercial posts in the computer industry are a host of small invitations to apply for academic jobs.

Despite the fact that academic administrators seem to feel it would be unseemly to ape their commercial rivals for talent, academic posts grace the newspaper jobs columns.

The most prestigious academic institutions in the UK, jostle for attention with job offers from more exotic climates. The London School of Economics, for instance, advertises for a support programmer alongside The Papua New Guinea University of Technology's attempts to lure a senior programmer overseas with a salary close to £1,000.

Although hard hit by cuts in education expenditure which have ruined the carefully laid plans of several colleges, the astute institute will soon be benefiting from the political

JOB SCENE

Richard Sharpe

victory which has gone under the banner of information technology.

The idea of the original information technology campaign was to awake the general public to the impact of new technology. Under that banner, however, a much more important battle has been fought and won - information technology has been forced up the agenda of both the Government and European Community.

As a result funds are beginning to flow into academic institutions.

The Polytechnic of the South Bank, for instance, has recently received the go ahead to spend money under the European Economic Commission's latest information technology research effort.

There is a growing belief that the United Kingdom's academic organizations have quite a vital role to play in fifth generation developments. Just as the term, information technology became a diffused and carelessly defined slogan during the awareness campaign so the new slogans of knowledge-based engineering and expert systems now appear at the head of grant applications from the United Kingdom's academics.

The belief that the academics have something to offer is held by the academic's most deadly critic - the commercial exploiter.

Major companies in the computer industry seem to have decided that it is better to try and influence the universities and colleges by close association than by standing outside and wringing their hands about the

commercial ignorance of the latest graduates.

The companies not only want the recruits, they also want the research. If by judicious pump printing and a nudge in the right direction, willing academics begin to research areas which otherwise would have to be done in-house then so much the better both for the college and the company. The college gains first hand knowledge of working in vital projects and the company can redirect its own small research effort into other areas.

Educational advertisements, however, seem, to be printed in the smallest type space.

For people who wish to work in some of the projects which will form the shape of information technology in the 1990s, therefore, reading the fine print may prove profitable; even if, in the case of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, the contract is for three years.

Computer Appointments

EUROPEAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

£20,000 salary + car West of London

Intertec is a rapidly growing company that has established itself over the last 10 years as one of the leading suppliers of microcomputer equipment. Its present range of SuperBrain and CompuStar has been particularly successful in the UK and European market.

This growth has created an opportunity for a Business Development Manager who would be responsible for developing a distributor system throughout Europe. Based in our new offices, the Manager would be expected to travel extensively.

Fluency in German would be extremely desirable.

Please reply in confidence with full CV to:

European Regional Manager, Intertec Data Systems, PO Box 367, London W13 9QG



The price war: even more cuts coming

All the signals indicate that the price war is continuing. Adamsoft, a small software house specialising in the Commodore Vic and 64 computers, has already reduced its prices. The result has been that their latest prices are about one third of those charged in America, which is why the programs concerned originate, writes Barry Miles.

There is a new development: Adamsoft is now going beyond the John Lewis philosophy of being "newly known" under a "old" name. In addition, Adamsoft makes a surprising offer. Anyone may return a product for part-exchange, provided the packaging is intact.

Commodore is also hotting up the price war. At a time when American commentators are examining the poor results of leading competitors, Commodore has announced substantial price reductions for many of its machines.

The Commodore 64, the spearhead of the current marketing thrust, is priced at a recommended retail price of £345.00 including VAT, to £229.00. Similarly the disk drive for use with this machine, or the Vic20, is down from £299.00 to £229.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

For disabled

Aimed at helping homeworkers, including the disabled, Maincomp are launching a selection of packages to run on the Lynx microcomputer. For the deaf and dumb, they have developed a system where a simple synthesizer is linked to the keyboard and phone. The message is typed and checked and then transmitted down the telephone line. Other devices such as a Braille keyboard with electronic pulsar checking for the blind user are on offer. In talks with building societies, the feasibility of the disabled householder being given the means to run a business from home, with the cost of the equipment added to the mortgage, is being studied.

Gallop, the market research company is increasingly using computer technology to speed its recordings and analysis services. The weekly Top of the Pops listings compiled by Gallop are now available on private Prestel pages developed by Metrolite Viewdata Systems, and keen followers of pop music will know by now every Tuesday exactly who is in - and out of the charts.

Electronics are also involved in another Gallop enterprise: gathering and monitoring drug usage in chemist shops. Initially 400 terminals supplied by Riva will be installed in a nationally representative sample of pharmacies through the country. Apart from producing labels to the specification of the Pharmaceutical Society, the system will log and record drug and dosage prescribed. These statistics will be assessed weekly by Rival Autodiagnosers and processed by the main computer. Results will be made available, at a fee, to the industry.

Cutting up

Users of Textline, the electronic listings service, now have the option of accessing the Dow Jones news retrieval service. The date tape is flown in daily to Finsbury Data Services who operate Textline, which adds some 4000 stories each week from more than 78 national and international publications. Used widely in the City by merchant banks, stockbrokers and accountants, it carries information on almost 40,000 companies.

The new Sord M5 micro is the latest product to lower its price. CGL's managing director, David Morein, explaining the £40 cut, says he is aiming at a larger market of computer users. For those who have just bought the machine at the old price, the company is offering the £35 Basic Language pack free of charge.

Typing in

Computer keyboards, owing much of their inheritance to the typewriter, have changed little over the years. Now GCS Communications is preparing to launch a revolutionary new concept in keyboard design called the GCS Keypoint 715. With 715 fully programmable key positions, each key on the keyboard acts in a similar way to the limited number of special function keys on an ordinary keyboard.

The main problem with conventional keyboards is that many computer programmes are difficult to operate, requiring endless instructional keycodes. The GCS Keypoint 715 does away with all that. It even plugs into the games port of the micro so that it can be used alongside a conventional keyboard. The keyboard will soon be available at about £125.

UK EVENTS

8th ZX Microfair, Alexander Palace, London, August 20; Acorn User Exhibition, Cusner International Hotel, London, August 25-28; Strathclyde Home Computer Fair, Ayr, August 26-27; Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, August 27-28; Computer Open Day, Dragonora Hotel, Leeds, September 1; Hampshire Computer Fair, Southampton Guildhall, September 8-9; Video, Audio and Computer Show, Bradford Exhibition Centre, September 16-18; Home Entertainment Show, Olympia, London, September 17-25; Computer Open Day Exhibition, Central Hotel, Glasgow, September 22; Microcomputers in Business, Warwick University, Coventry, September 27-29; Personal Computer World Show, Barbican Centre, London, September 29-October 2; Computer Fair, The Sir Frederic Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, October 2; European Computer Trade Forum, NEC, Birmingham, October 4-7.

Keeping track on world's fastest women

East German threat to the Ashford air of superiority

The setting of a world record for the 4 x 100 metres relay in East Berlin last Sunday has underlined the East German women's sprinting strength (Reuters reports). Leading their challenge for the 100 metres at the world championships in Helsinki next week will be Maritta Göhr; competing over the same distance will be Maritta Koch, who does not feel well enough prepared for the 400 metres.

Mrs Göhr's main challenger for the title is likely to be Evelyn Ashford, of the United States. Miss Ashford may hold the world record for the 100 metres, but she is currently the world's fastest woman.

Last month in the rarefield atmosphere of Colorado Springs, she set a world record of 10.79 sec, slicing two hundredths of a second off the Mark Mrs Göhr set in East Berlin in June.

But many argue that the East German's time, obtained by the thin air of high altitude, is intrinsically superior to Miss Ashford's record. West Mrs Göhr and Miss Ashford face each other last month on the new Los Angeles Olympic track, the East German will enjoy with the race and left her rival a disappointed third.

Mrs Göhr, a 25-year-old psychology student, will start her favourite next week, although she has not won at either of the Olympic Games in which she has competed and she was defeated by Miss Ashford in the 1979 World Cup.

The former Maritta Ohter was only 18 when she competed at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. She did well to make the final, in which she finished eighth and last, although she had some compensation with a gold medal in the 4 x 100 metres relay.

In the 1978 European championships Mrs Göhr won a gold medal in the 100 metres, silver in the 200 metres and bronze in the 4 x 100 metres relay. She was accordingly favourite at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, the American boycott making his success seem even more likely. But Mrs Göhr was beaten into second place by the Lyudmila Kondratyeva of the Soviet Union and a doubt about her temperament for the big occasion remained.

A third place in the 1981 World Cup meeting behind Miss Ashford and Kathy Smallwood of Britain was a further disappointment, but this year she has returned to form with a series of outstanding performances.

"I know I can improve enormously in a meeting with the strongest competition," she said



Headlong pursuit: Mrs Göhr (left), leading the East Germans; and Miss Ashford, her main challenger.

after her win over Miss Ashford. "And the strongest competition just now, apart from Maritta Koch, is the United States sprinter."

The Olympic Games have likewise brought disappointment to Miss Ashford. She finished fifth in the 100 metres in Montreal in 1976, and was forced to use the 1980 Moscow Games because of the boycott.

Miss Ashford, the first woman to break the combination of 11 seconds for the 100 and 22 seconds for the 200, had an excellent year in 1979, however. She did not lose a race over either 100 or 200 metres and crowned the season with a double triumph over the East Germans in the World Cup which earned her the title of woman track and field athlete of the year. In the 1981 World Cup in Rome she again won both sprint titles.

Miss Ashford has a distinctive running style, a forward leaning approach which sometimes seems at odds with the laws of gravity. She will even admit she leans forward too far. At indoor competitions she has dazzled spectators by substituting a sleek body suit, covering everything except her head and hands, for her normal track outfit. She owes much to her coach, Pat Winslow-Cummins, a former Olympic pentathlete who is married to the former Olympic hammer gold medal winner, Harold Connolly.

Miss Ashford came under her guidance at the University of California in 1975 at the age of 19. Within a year she was in the United States Olympic team and has dominated American sprinting ever since. She hopes to crown her career with an Olympic gold medal and even emulate Wilma Rudolph's triple-gold triumph of 1960 in Rome.

TENNIS

Connors at his highest peak

Beaver Creek, Colorado (AP) - Jimmy Connors defeated Mats Wilander of Sweden 6-2, 6-2, to win the third Beaver Creek tournament in Colorado. Both players were adversely affected by the high altitude (8,000 ft) of the venue.

In the first set, both players held service, Connors winning the tie-break 8-6. In the second set, Wilander particularly showed the strain of altitude. The thinness of the air made it difficult to control the ball. Connors' solution was to get over the ball more and not hit it too hard. Typically, Connors kept up a running banter with the crowd and the officials. After winning he offered a challenge to the former president of the United States to play a best-of-three sets match. Mr Ford declined, but came to the court to congratulate both players.

The third place match between Steve Denton and Roscoe Tanner, both of the United States was a service duel. Denton's power proved too much for Tanner and he won 6-3, 7-5.

SOUTH ORANGE, New Jersey (Reuters) - The unseeded Australian, Brad Drewett, beat the No3 seed, John Alexander, also of Australia 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, to win the men's singles title in a \$125,000 tournament.

It was the first time an unseeded player had won the event since it started in 1977.

Drewett, aged 25, became the first Australian winner since Colin Dibley in 1973, by beating a man ranked almost 100 places higher than him (Drewett is 133, Alexander 36). Drewett must have been particularly satisfied by his success because Alexander is his doubles partner.

The Women's title was won by the No1 seed, Andrea Temesvári of Hungary. She beat Pam Casale of the United States, 6-3, 6-1. In the men's doubles final, the Americans, Fritz Buchening and Tom Cain, beat John Lloyd, of Britain, and Dick Stockton (United States), 6-2, 7-5.

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado (AP) - Steve Denton (USA) beat Mats Wilander (SWE) 7-6, 6-2, 7-5. **SOUTH ORANGE, New Jersey** (AP) - Brad Drewett (AUS) beat John Alexander (AUS) 4-6, 6-4, 7-5. **Women's singles** - Andrea Temesvári (HUN) beat Pam Casale (USA) 6-3, 6-1. **Men's doubles** - Fritz Buchening (USA) and Tom Cain (USA) beat John Lloyd (GBR) and Dick Stockton (USA) 6-3, 6-2. **Women's doubles** - Andrea Temesvári (HUN) and Martina Navratilova (CZE) beat Pam Casale (USA) and Martina Hingis (SWE) 6-3, 6-2. **Men's singles consolation** - Steve Denton (USA) beat Roscoe Tanner (USA) 6-3, 6-2. **Women's singles consolation** - Martina Navratilova (CZE) beat Pam Casale (USA) 6-3, 6-2. **Men's doubles consolation** - Steve Denton (USA) and Roscoe Tanner (USA) beat Brad Drewett (AUS) and John Alexander (AUS) 6-3, 6-2.

GOLF: AUSTRALIAN WOMAN WINS UNITED STATES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The sudden death of a sex symbol

Tulsa, Oklahoma (Reuters) - Jan Stephenson of Australia, after winning the United States Open Championship here, said she hoped the world would now think of her as a golfer rather than a sex symbol. She scored a three-over-par 74 for a four-second round total of 290 to beat Joanne Carner and Patty Sheehan, both Americans, by one stroke.

Miss Stephenson, winner of three major championships in three years, dropped strokes at the final two holes, barely missing a 10-footer at the 18th and tapping in for victory and dropping her putter in relief. Her round also included two dropped strokes at the third hole.

She was so nervous by the end that Eddie Iyer warning said my lips were white," Miss Stephenson, who was also accompanied by her parents, said. "Dad has probably wanted the open as much as I have. People will be thinking of me only as a sex symbol and realize I can really play golf."

Here was the highest aggregate in a US Open in six years. She is the third foreign-born golfer to win it and the first since Catherine Lacoste, of France, an amateur, who won in 1967, by Crocker, of Uruguay, won in 1955. The 5ft 5in Australian, a professional since 1973, has become the most successful golfer on the tour over the last 24 months. Her triumph on Sunday, in heat well over 100 degrees, was her eighth since July 1981. She won the Peter Jackson Classic in Canada in 1981 and the Ladies Professional Golf Association championship a year later.

Except for an eagle two on the par four 11th hole in the opening round, Miss Stephenson's performance was not spectacular. She was just steady

Cook beats Miller in play-off



Star in stripes: Miss Stephenson received with Open arms

in four days of 100-plus temperatures. Most of the other players, drained by the heat, could not mount any charge. Miss Stephenson increased her earnings for 12 years on the LPGA tour to \$816,710. She is third on the current money list with \$159,293.

LEADING TOTALS (Americans unless stated): 200: J Stephenson (AUS), 72, 73, 71, 74, 71, 71, 73, 73, 292; P Flacco, 75, 74, 70, 286; G Moras, 71, 77, 69, 294; D Grewer, 70, 72, 73, 73; M Van Alen, 77, 72, 73, 293; J Lusk (AUS), 75, 73, 72; A Okamoto (JAP), 77, 73, 75, 70; P Bradley, 72, 76, 71, 78.

A Coles and a Muscroft meet again

By John Hennessy, Golf Correspondent

Coombe Hill Golf Club provides a sentimental link with the past this week. In the euphoria of post-war Britain the club began a series of tournaments for amateurs, under the inspiration of Dick Burton. To begin with, the winner's prize was the princely sum of £40. The venture, funded entirely by club members, lasted for a decade or so, latterly on other courses, before founding.

This week it is revived under the sponsorship of Foot-Joy, with a first prize of £1,000, and under the aegis of the Professional Golfers Association as a national championship. The winner will also be able to take part in the world amateurs' championship, to be held in Florida in December.

The field this week, from today until Thursday, will consist of 48 players who have qualified in eight centres throughout the United Kingdom. They include Gary Coles and Duncan Muscroft, sons of well-known fathers, Mark Mouland and Barry Lane, who have both had PGA tournament experience, and Paul Stevenson, a young Irishman, last year's Ulster boys' champion. Stevenson, just over 17, is the youngest player in the field. Douglas Owers, of Maidenhead, is his senior by 20 years.

Heavy rain recently has taken some of the fire out of the fairways, so that in spite of tight conditions we may see some low scores. The course, of 6,256 yards, has a par of 70, with one long hole and two short holes in each half.

FISHING

A great name perpetuated

By Conrad Voss-Bark

The landslide fall in demand for split cane fishing rods claimed its most distinguished casualty in the closure earlier this year of Sharp's of Aberdeen. The firm, which was the generation head of the firm founded by his grandfather, closing the works was like cutting off a part of himself.

Sharp's rods are unique because they are impregnated with a resin which makes them waterproof and resistant to warping - a British patent which was also used to bond the wooden framework of the Meteor aircraft during the Second World War. After the firm's liquidation, the process was shared by sharp's with the American rod-making firm, Orvis.

But the struggle for Sharp's to survive was too great. More and more rods were being built with the new split cane material, carbon fibre, and today something like 80 per cent of rods sold in this

country are carbon rods coming in from places like Taiwan and Korea at prices no British fishing tackle maker can match. The end was in sight.

Yet, astonishingly enough, Sharp's survived to the last moment, and against all the portents, an English firm, Taylor and Johnson of Redditch, stepped in to buy the machinery down from Aberdeen, and started up to make Sharp's impregnated cane rods themselves.

A spokesman for the company, Mr W. C. Marris, said: "We'll continue to make about two-thirds of the original range, the Featherweights, the Scotmies, and the ferruled and spliced salmon rods. We will also service and repair Sharp's rods."

So the name and the rods go on, perpetuating the dream of a young armorer in the trenches. Gallipoli during the First World War, the firm's founder, John Sharp, who swore that if he came out of the trenches alive he would make the world's best fishing rods, which indeed he did.

FOOTBALL

Young to join Brighton

The Sheffield United forward, Alan Young, is set to join Brighton for about £140,000. The Scot is due at the Goldstone ground later this week for talks with the Brighton manager, Peter Taylor, who will discuss with his latest from a tournament in Belgium. Young, formerly with Leicester City, cost Sheffield United a club record fee of £160,000 last year.

Aston Villa goalkeeper, Nigel Spink is expected to sign a new contract that will keep him at Villa Park for the next five years. But Villa defender, Ken McNaight, whose previous contract expired on Sunday, is still refusing to accept a new two-year agreement. McNaight, aged 27, wants a four-year contract and said: "I don't want to leave Villa, but it's beginning to look as if I might have to."

Northampton yesterday completed the signing of three new players. The Republic of Ireland international, Austin Hayes (from Millwall), Terry Austin (from Doncaster) and Russell Lewis, a defender from Swindon.

The utility player, Dean Wilkins, aged 20, had talks with Brighton yesterday and is likely to join them on a free transfer from Queen's Park Rangers.

Arthur Graham, the former Scottish international, has been signed by Manchester United and will make his debut against Liverpool in a testimonial match in Belfast tomorrow. Graham, aged 30, whose £45,000 move from Leeds was completed yesterday, will act as cover for the injury-prone Steve Coppell.

Young talking

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM... Announcements published in this section...

DEATHS... RICHARDSON - On July 29, 1983, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

BIRTHS... AYLWARD - On July 31, at St. Anne's Hospital, London...

DEATHS... MARIAM - On July 29, at St. Anne's Hospital, London...

BIRTHS... MARIAM - On July 29, at St. Anne's Hospital, London...

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RENTALS... KNIGHTSBRIDGE... A superb period home in the fashionable...

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SUSSEX GARDENS, W2... Attractive 4 bedroom house in new...

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BARON COURT, W14... Superb newly modernized flat in superb...

WORRINGTON CRESCENT, NW11... Luxurious 3 bedroom house in...

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ST. MARCO'S... Superb ground floor, large living room...

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W14... 2 bed, 1st floor, 2nd floor...

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W14... 2 bed, 1st floor, 2nd floor...

SUPER SECRETARIES... ESTATE AGENCY... Solicitor required for Market Town Firm...

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LEGAL NOTICES... No. 004339 of 1983... In the High Court of Justice...

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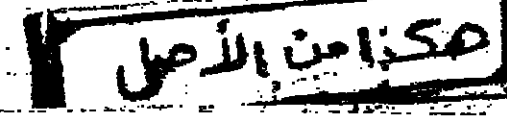
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear



BBC 1
6.00 Ceefax AM News headlines, weather, traffic and sports details. Also available to viewers with television sets without the teletext facility.

tv-am
6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Martin Wainwright. News from the BBC's London, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30.

CHOICE
Health Service in a LOTTERY FOR LIFE (TV 10.30pm). Dr Stoppard reveals that life-saving treatment for kidney failure patients depends on where the patient lives - in Manchester for example three quarters of sufferers will die, a very much higher rate than those that live in the south.

THE WINE PROGRAMME (Channel 4 8.30pm) in which she successfully manages to educate the viewer without recourse to the pompous rhetoric that is sometimes associated with wine buffs.

TONIGHT'S PROM
7.30 Mozart: Fantasia in F minor (K380) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. 8.00 The Proms: Concerto in G major (K541) by Franz Joseph Haydn.

Radio 2
News on the hour every hour (except 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. Radio 2). 6.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m. 12.00 p.m. (M/F/W).

Radio 1
News on the half hour from 6.00am until 8.00pm and then at 10.00 and 12.00 p.m. (M/F/W). 6.00 Adrian John, 7.00 Mike Roke, 8.00 Simon Bates, 11.00 David Jensen with the Radio 1 Newsround in Scarborough.

BBC 2
6.00 Open University: Modern Art: Guernica. 6.30 Oceanography: Carbonates. 6.55 Biology: Feeding Mechanisms.

ITV/LONDON
8.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street, 10.25 Stars of Twanaka. The winners of the 1982-83 season of the game show The Bachelors.

CHANNEL 4
5.30 A Full Life. In the first of a new series of interviews with people who have led a long and varied life.

Radio 4
6.00 News Briefing, 6.18 Farming Today, 6.25 Shipping, 6.30 Today, including 6.45 Prayer for the Day.

Radio 3
5.55 Morning: 7.00 News, 7.05 Morning Concert: Glazunov Op 80, Interval reading at 10.20.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
CENTRAL As London except: 10.00 Morning Start, 10.30 Creative, 10.55 Country News, 11.00 Country Practice.

TYNE TEES As London except: 10.55 News, 11.00 Nature Of Things, 11.25 Adventure of Costello.

1.05 News After Noon with Michael Cole and Vivien Crago. The winners of the 1982-83 season of the game show The Bachelors.

1.00 News with Carol Barnes 1.20 Thames News 1.30 Sesame Street. The winners of the 1982-83 season of the game show The Bachelors.

6.00 Women Under Siege. The music of three programmes examining the status of Arab women today looks at the women of Palestine.

11.00 Music: The Work in 25 Years with Johnny Wright. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight, 11.30 Music At Night, 11.45 The World at One News.

11.00 News, 11.15 News, 11.30 News, 11.45 News, 11.55 News. 12.00 News, 12.15 News, 12.30 News.

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6.25 Nationwide During this, the last week of Nationwide, the programme takes a retrospective look at past triumphs.

6.30 Don't Rock the Boat. Domestic comedy series about the booby-trapped holiday home.

6.30 The Wine Programme. A new six-part series designed to remove the mystique attached to wine.

6.30 Film: The Prince of the Desert. A made-for-television drama about a widowed Kentucky farmer who moves to Cincinnati when his daughter needs an operation.

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US angry at 'bias' over air fares

By Michael Baily Transport Editor

The British Government is being accused on both sides of the Atlantic of artificially keeping up Atlantic air and flouting American law to ease the path to British Airways, towards privatization.

In the past weeks the Government or the Civil Aviation Authority have refused an application by British Atlantic Airways, a new airline formed partly by former Laker staff, to start a new London to New York service at a £329 one-way business-class fare compared with £438 on British Airways.

Invoked the trade protection act to prevent Laker liquidators proceeding in the American courts against British Caldonian for allegedly acting together to put Laker out of business. The last decision is seen by the American government and US airlines as a cynical attempt to save £100m on the cost of privatising BA by avoiding action in the US courts.

The Government will in any case have to spend £500m on capital restructuring, to prepare BA for flotation, but if the action goes ahead, and the airlines lose with maximum damages, the cost could rise to £1,500m it is estimated.

In the British Atlantic case, the company's managing director, Mr Randolph Fields, yesterday described the Civil Aviation Authority decision as "a naked protectionism" in favour of BA and B-Cal.

In the TWA case, the airline said in New York yesterday: "We do not see how the British Government can refuse our new fare after allowing the \$99 single of People Express."

But there is still hope of lower fares in the autumn as a result of a special conference called by the International Air Transport Association in Toronto next week for the airlines themselves to agree on a new fare structure rather than come forward with competing low fares which in the CAA's view are "predatory" and "hot-cost-related".

B-Cal on target, page 13



Gun law: Soldiers on guard in Colombo

Britons tell of holiday terror in Sri Lanka

Continued from page 1

group of three Tamils. They caught one, beat him up, threw him to the ground and stoned him. I don't know if he died.

"It was terrible. Nobody did a thing to help. Even the police turned a blind eye." Mr Clive Templeman, from Wigston, Leicestershire, said that they passed the time by playing cricket against the holiday centre staff.

"As we were not allowed out the staff organized cricket matches against the tourists. We always seemed to win but I think they let us. The people were very good to us and although the island was tense none of the violence was directed at us."

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan Government has relaxed the curfew a little and tightened press censorship a

good deal (Michael Hamlyn writes).

Press photography was yesterday banned and journalists will no longer be allowed to move freely during curfews. Instead, passes are being issued allowing movement only between their hotels and the censor's office.

The ban on photographs was quickly enforced when an Indian photographer was detained for three hours and his film impounded. Censorship now includes everything relating to security, law and order and the movement of "displaced persons" in Sri Lanka, and reporting of related events abroad.

A series of arrests continued yesterday in connection with the banning of three political parties, but the Government refused to say how many were being held.

Food shortage, page 5



Street trade: A fish seller south of the capital has trebled his prices



Food queue: Crowds gather to stock up on essentials as the curfew is relaxed

Letter from Santiago Two faces of Cuba and a Castro pep talk

Fidel Castro's Cuba had an anniversary to celebrate and opened its doors to the world for the festivities. Cuba also had its carnival, the yearly burst of dancing, drinking and dressing up in costumes that goes back to the country's Spanish and African past.

For outsiders, it was a week to get a glimpse of two very different aspects of this isolated society.

There was Cuba the Communist state, singing the Internationale and commemorating the attack on a barracks here that marked the start of the Castro revolution.

There was also Cuba the spirited Latin nation that comes to life after 10 pm, ready to carouse in the streets until dawn.

The importance to Cubans of the annual carnival - tied to the planting of the sugar crop rather than to lent - seemed to be symbolized by the women who came to hear Dr Castro speak: one afternoon at the opening of a factory. They were wearing their hair in curlers for the night ahead.

The celebrations last week also gave outsiders a chance to see two sides of Dr Castro: the internationalist rallying before the world's press against Yankee imperialism, and the folksy Fidel, talking to workers about the society he is building.

Speaking in Santiago on the anniversary of the failed attempt on the Moncada barracks here on July 26, 1953, his theme was one of fierce independence. He spoke proudly of Cuba's military strength and vowed that never would anyone else have to fight Cuba's fights.

Next day, at the Celia Sanchez Manduley textile plant, Dr Castro, flanked by Mr Nikolai Tarasov, the Soviet Minister of Light Industry, listed ways in which Cuba depended on the Soviet Union, why many of the new factory's workers were trained.

The Russians, he said, not only built this factory complex, thought to be among the largest in the hemisphere, but also were responsible for five other huge projects, among them a nuclear power station being built in Cienfuegos, an oil refinery and a nickel plant.

His debt to Moscow and Marxist-Leninism paid, Dr Castro assumed his father-of-the-country image to recall for the workers the accomplish-

ments of his nearly 25 years in power. An hour of statistics followed, with short digressions, for example, the uses of cotton and polyester (both to be produced by the factory) differed.

There was a short pep talk on physical fitness and the problem of obesity in Cuba. Dr Castro, nearly 57 years old, has been encouraging Cubans to shape up, to jog and to cut down on smoking and drinking.

He then returned to his seat on the podium to fidget through the rest of the ceremony, looking at his watch twice during the singing of the Internationale. At his side, Mr Maurice Bishop, the Prime Minister of Grenada, and the Soviet representatives stood stiffly to attention.

To a first-time visitor to Cuba, fresh from the mostly unhappy countries of Central America, the achievements of the Castro years are not hard to see. There are clean streets, clean water, healthy young people and impressive educational institutions.

But the economy - either battered by the United States embargo or, depending on one's point of view, crippled by the loss of a middle class and the suppression of private initiative, or both - serious problems that are apparent in everyday life. Housing and transport are in short supply, and the Government admits it.

American jeans, by contrast, cost \$150 (about £100) a pair.

Dr Castro is fond of reminding his audiences that Cuba has built a society well advanced of those of other Latin American nations. In 25 years, he said last week, the Government had never had to use a soldier, a policeman or a fireman against the people.

Nonetheless, Dr Castro is in many ways the Latin man on horseback, a macho figure in a badminton, like other past and present Latin leaders.

At the Celia Sanchez factory, named for Dr Castro's guerrilla colleague and old friend who died two years ago of cancer, he accepted the gift of a rifle from Mr Bishop. At his side sat the Cuban Interior Minister, in badminton, a pistol strapped to his hip.

Barbara Crossette of the New York Times

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

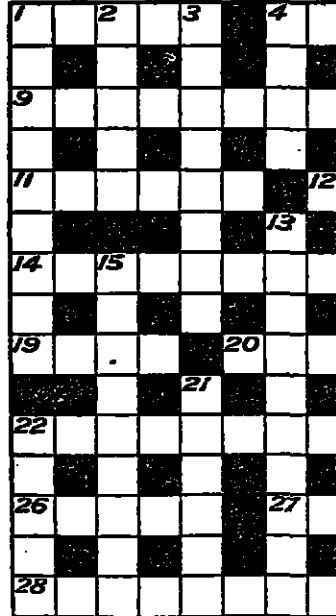
Today's events

Royal engagements: Princess Anne, Patron of the Royal Lynton Yacht Club, attends the Admiral's Cup Trophy Race, arriving at Christchurch Bay, Hampshire, 9.30.

New exhibitions: Winning designs in the Johnson Matthey silver design competition, Design Centre, Vincent Street.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,197

This puzzle, used at the London A regional final of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 3 per cent of the finalists.



ACROSS: 1 Born with a duty to give more money (5); 4 Minuscule PCs going after queer characters (9); 9 Girl one Nevada city rejected as religious worker (9); 10 As cold without Latin covering (5); 11 Burden of a good doctor in part of Greater Manchester (6); 12 Wisecrack, pale by dusk (3-5); 14 Lytton's master of murder (6,4); 16 The way one runs in a bustle (4); 19 Bottom's most fearful wild-fowl (4); 20 Lines heels differently, copies tag-of-war experts (10); 22 It wasn't needed at billiards for making canons (3-5); 23 Bird produces source of light and its heat (6); 26 Great deal to observe (5); 27 Short, creative, clever and not difficult (9); 28 Continually busy jogging? (2,3,4); 29 To rid, wrongly, of a right (5).

Glasgow: Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5, Sat 9 to 5 (until Aug 19)

The High Street: photographs by Al Vandenberg, Museum and Art Gallery, Stafford; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4 closed Sun; (until Aug 27). Work by R. A. Palmer, Gallery 45, 45-46 Bridge Street, Hereford; Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30, closed Sun; (until Aug 10). Walsall Festival art & photographic exhibition; E. M. Flint Gallery, Walsall; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.

MUSIC

Recital by Jessie Ridley (violin) and Ian Ray (piano), St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, 1.10. Organ recital by Gordon Phillips, St Martin's Church, Scarborough, 7.30. Organ recital by Andrew Goodwin, Rangoon Cathedral, 1.15. Organ recital by John Egginton, Leicester Cathedral, 8. Aldeburgh Festival, - Scandinavian song recital, Jubilee Hall, Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 7.

Talks, lectures, films

The Video Artist, Roger Bush, A Passage Through Landscape: three video presentations, Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield, 7.15. Statues and Monuments in Edinburgh, talk by Sheila Brock, and walk in the vicinity of the Museum, meet Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 10.30am.

Anniversaries

Births: Nicholas Wiseman, cardinal, first archbishop of Westminster, Seville, 1802; Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Music 1953-75, London, 1891; Deaths: William II (Rufus) (reigned 1087-1100), Lynton, Hampshire, 1100; Thomas Galassborough, London, 1788; Enrico Caruso, Naples, 1921; Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, Bell Branch, Cape Breton Island, 1912; Warren Harding, 29th President of the USA (1921-23), San Francisco, 1923; Paul von Hindenburg, President of the German Republic 1925-34, Neudeck, Germany (now Podzamce, Poland), 1934.

Pollution award

The Royal Society of Arts, Department of the Environment, and Confederation of British Industry have launched a new awards scheme for innovations in pollution abatement. The deadline for entries is October 31, with prizes to be awarded next March. Any institution, business or individual can apply. Details and entry forms from Timothy Cantell, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, London WC2N 6EZ. Tel 01-839 2366.

First aid hints

St John Ambulance provides first aid hints by tape recording on summer ailments, including insect bites, burns and heat exhaustion; (Call 01-735 3312).

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TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending July 30: 1 Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 12.05m; 2 Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 12.05m; 3 The A-Team, ITV, 10.05m; 4 Crossroads (Thurs), Central, 10.05m; 5 Crossroads (Wed), Central, 10.05m; 6 News at 10 (Mon), ITV, 8.45m; 7 Crossroads (Thurs), Central, 9.00m; 8 The Krotona Factor, Granada, 9.75m; 9 News at 10 (Mon), ITV, 8.45m; 10 Winner Takes All, Yorkshire, 9.20m.

BC1: 1 News & Sport (Sat) 8.20m; 2 The Best of the Best, 8.30m; 3 Nine O'Clock News (Thurs), 7.40m; 4 Nine O'Clock News (Wed), 7.40m; 5 Only Fools & Horses, 8.70m; 6 The Main Attraction, 8.55m; 7 Nine O'Clock News (Thurs), 8.00m; 8 The Black Adder, 8.70m; 9 News & Weather (Tue) 8.45m; 10 News & Weather (Sat) 8.20m 8.40.

BC2: 1 The Paul Daniels Magic Show, 8.20m; 2 Call My Bluff, 3.25m; 3 Interiors, 2.55m; 4 Sunday Grandstand, 2.74m; 5 News at 5 (Sat) 2.70m; 6 News at 5 (Sun) 2.50m; 7 News Review, 2.50m; 8 The Big Game, 2.45m; 9 Crick (Sat) 2.00m 2.45m; 10 Gorilla G. Gorilla, 2.55m.

Channel 4: 1 The House on Garfield Street, 3.25m; 2 Interiors, 2.55m; 3 A Married Man, 2.30m; 4 The House on Garfield Street, 2.25m; 5 Soap, 2.20m; 6 The Sister Years of Peter von Kant, 2.00m; 7 The Vanishing Ties of Africa, 1.45m; 8 Brookside (Tue) 1.40m; 9 Brookside (Wed) 1.25m; 10 A Fine Romance, 1.25m.

4AC: 1 Sun & Star, (sat) 57.00m; 2 Jinx, (Sat) 54.00m; 3 Y Y By Yn Yi Li (Sat) 40.00m; 4 Llan Ar Y Sgrif (sat) 48.00m; 5 Sifor, (sat) 40.00m.

Breakfast television: The average weekly figure for audiences at peak times (with figures in parentheses showing the reach - the number of people who viewed for at least eight minutes). BBC1: Breakfast Time: Mon to Fri 1.4m (4.5m); TV-am Good Morning Britain: Mon to Fri 0.8m (2.5m); Sat Sun, Sun Live (Sat or Sun) 2.5m; Broadcasters' Audience Research Board.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies: Australia \$ 1.79, Austria Sch 29.40, Belgium Fr 33.75, Canada \$ 1.93, Denmark Kr 14.58, France Fr 6.56, Germany DM 12.50, Greece Dr 136.50, Hong Kong \$ 7.80, Ireland Pt 1.32, Italy Lira 2460.00, Japan Yen 168.00, Netherlands Gld 230.00, Norway Kr 116.64, Portugal Esc 202.48, South Africa Rd 230.00, Spain Ptas 166.64, Sweden Kr 12.25, Switzerland Fr 3.37, USA \$ 1.56, Yugoslavia Dnr 765.00.

Roads

London and South-east: Overnight thunderstorms, surface water on all main roads in region, making them extremely hazardous. A40: Westway resurfacing eastbound at Shepherds Bush, avoid. A33: Delays on Winchester by-pass due to repairs at Easton Lane and Spittle Bridge. The City: roads closed, one-way streets and diversions at Bank Junction because of large burst watermain, avoid.

Wales and the West: A4/A37: Temporary one-way system on Bath Road/Wells Road Bristol. M4: At junction 32 (Cardiff), lane closures; A40: W of Carmarthen, Dyfed, roadworks at three locations before St Clears.

The Midlands and East Anglia: M5: Lane closures between junctions 10 and 11 (Walsall and Cannock). M6: junctions 5 to 6 (Birmingham) to Birmingham centrally, lane closures. M45: Eastbound carriageway closed, diversion.

North: M6: Lane closures between junctions 19 and 20 at Chester. A1781-340: Alnwick Bridge by-pass, Northumberland, roadworks, periodic delays. A66: Roadworks and temporary lights E of Bowes, Co Durham.

Scotland: M6: Two-way traffic on northbound carriageway between junctions 5 and 7, (Falkirk to Kincairdine Bridge); roadworks. A85: Lane closures E of Glendock, between Perth and Dundee. Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

The Daily Express complains about England having to wait so long for Government action against local authorities which consistently over-charge on their rates. "The ratepayers have discovered what happens when the extremists create their mind people's republics."

The Daily Star asks why ordinary families should pay for the property of big-spending councils. However, the Government was the ultimate holder of the purse-strings and by taking power to control excessive rate rises it would be forcing councils to toe the line or take the consequences.

Pollen forecast

Table showing pollen counts for various locations: Aberdeen high, Birmingham high, Bristol high, Cardiff high, Edinburgh high, Glasgow high, London high, Manchester high, Newcastle high, Nottingham high, Oxford high, Perth high, Plymouth high, Reading high, Southampton high, Swansea high, Telford high, Warrington high, Worcester high, York high.

Weather forecast

A NW airstream will cover Britain with a ridge of high pressure approaching from W. Gam to midnight.

London, SE, E, central N England, East Anglia, Midlands: Scattered showers, sunny or clear periods; wind NW, moderate; max temp 17 to 19C (63 to 66F).

Central, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny or clear periods, mainly dry; wind NW, moderate; max temp 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Inverclyde: Rainfall cloudy at times, occasional showers; wind NW, backing W later, moderate to fresh; max temp 15 to 16C (59 to 61F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: Scattered showers, sunny or clear periods; wind NW, moderate; max temp 17C (63F).

Aberdeen, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Showers, bright or sunny intervals; wind NW, moderate to fresh; max temp 13 to 15C (55 to 59F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Mostly dry in S, a little rain in parts of N; becoming a little warmer.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind W fresh; sea moderate. Straits of Dover, English Channel (E), St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, fresh; sea moderate.

Sun rises: 5.25am, Sun sets: 8.45pm. Moon sets: 2.26pm, 12.15am tomorrow. Last quarter: 1.52am.

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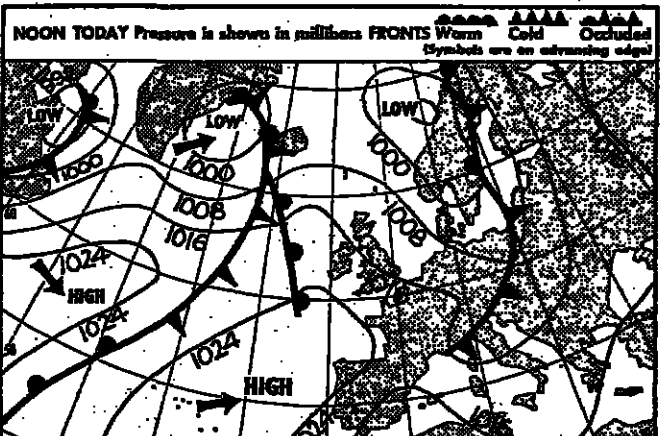


Table showing high tides for various locations: London Bridge 4.01, Aberdeen 2.21, Belfast 5.00, Cardiff 4.50, Devonport 11.27, Dover 5.02, Harwich 5.41, Liverpool 4.17, Malton 12.11, Newcastle 1.48, Plymouth 11.77, Southampton 4.56, Swansea 4.51, Walsall-on-Wear 5.41.

Table showing weather conditions around Britain for various locations: Aberdeen, Brighton, Cardiff, Exeter, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Perth, Plymouth, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Telford, Warrington, Worcester, York.

Table showing weather conditions abroad for various locations: Adelaide, Algiers, Alexandria, Amman, Ankara, Antwerp, Athens, Auckland, Baghdad, Bahrain, Bamako, Barcelona, Beirut, Belgrade, Bern, Birm., Bonn, Brasilia, Brisbane, Bucharest, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Canberra, Cardiff, Copenhagen, Dallas, Damascus, Dar-es-Salaam, Delhi, Dhaka, Doha, Dublin, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, Geneva, Georgetown, Giza, Harare, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Houston, Hyderabad, Istanbul, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Jerusalem, Lima, London, Lyons, Madrid, Manila, Mexico City, Moscow, Mumbai, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Ottawa, Paris, Perth, Port of Spain, Prague, Rome, Santiago, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tangier, Toronto, Tripoli, Tunis, Vancouver, Warsaw, Wellington, Zurich.

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